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Daily Report

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CONTENTS

16 March 1994

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Ukraine Will Not Join 'Dangerous' CIS Security System [UNIAR]	1
CIS Foreign Ministers Meet in Moscow 16 Mar [Moscow TV]	1
Kozyrev: CIS More Independent, Active [INTERFAX]	1
Georgian, Ukrainian Ministers on Talks [ITAR-TASS]	1
Agenda for Meeting Reported [ITAR-TASS]	2
Foreign Ministers Issue Final Communique in Dushanbe [ITAR-TASS]	2
CIS Heads of State Summit Postponed to Mid-Apr [Moscow TV]	2
Agreement Reached on Gas Supplies to Baltic Countries [St. Petersburg TV]	3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Mar	3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Zhirinovskiy Cautions U.S. on 'Radical Democrats' [INTERFAX]	5
Zhirinovskiy Meets With Nixon [ITAR-TASS]	5
Security Council Official Meets Nixon [Moscow Radio]	5
Vladivostok Talks Part of 'Mature Partnership' [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Mar]	5
Kozyrev Comments Prior to Christopher Meeting [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 16 Mar]	6
U.S. Submarines Active Off Russian Coasts [INTERFAX]	6
U.S. Talks on Uranium-239 Production Viewed [ITAR-TASS]	6
Kozyrev Returns From Vladivostok, Dushanbe [ITAR-TASS]	7
PLO Leader, Israeli Premier To Visit Moscow [ITAR-TASS]	7
Russia's Return to World Affairs Welcomed [PRAVDA 15 Mar]	7
Churkin Returns to Belgrade; Views Bosnia Talks [Russian TV]	8
Sarajevo Visit Detailed [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Mar]	8
Russia, U.S. Urged To Eschew Point-Scoring in Bosnia [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Mar]	9
Diplomat Views Plans for New COCOM [INTERFAX]	9
Foreign Ministry Welcomes Azeri-Armenian Meeting [ITAR-TASS]	9
Foreign Ministry Fears Georgian-Abkhaz Fighting [ITAR-TASS]	10
Minister on Dismantling Ukraine's Nuclear Warheads [Moscow Radio]	10
Gasprom To Reduce Supplies to Ukraine 'Early Apr' [ITAR-TASS]	10
Details of Latvian Troop Withdrawal Treaty Given [Moscow TV]	10
Western Diplomats Hail Potential of Tatarstan Treaty [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Mar]	11
Chernomurdin, Poland's Pawlak Conclude Talks [INTERFAX]	11
Russia, Germany To Assist Ethnic Germans [INTERFAX]	11
DPRK Envoy Discusses Stance in North-South Talks [Moscow International]	12
DPRK Group Say Nonnuclear Process Depends on Japan [PRAVDA 15 Mar]	13
TV Series Profiles Intelligence Agents [Russian TV]	13

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Rutskoy Calls For Restoration of Soviet Union [ITAR-TASS]	15
Yeltsin Seen Gaining From Release of Amnestied Foes [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	15
Gaydar, Khramov Qualify Support for Civil Accord [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	15
'Moderate Opposition' Favors Stability Accord [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	16
Significance of 'Memorandum of Accord' Assessed [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	16
Moscow Mayor Not To Run for President [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Mar]	17
Zhirinovskiy Says Party Favors Economic Stability [Russian TV]	17
Zhirinovskiy Seeks Financial Aid From Bankers [SEGODNYA 16 Mar]	17

Communist Party To Investigate Oct Events [INTERFAX]	18
Zyuganov Views Communist Party's Action Program [ITAR-TASS]	18
Zyuganov Views Yeltsin, Amnesty, U.S. Ties [Rome L'ESPRESSO 18 Mar]	19
Shakhray on Restoration of Russian Germans' Autonomy [ITAR-TASS]	20
'Breaking Up the FCS' Option for Reorganization [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Mar]	20
Spokesman Denies FCS Director's Illness [INTERFAX]	20

Media Issues

Official Warns TV, Radio Broadcast Cuts 'Possible' [INTERFAX]	20
Rostelekom Refuses Radio, TV Companies Orders [Radio Rossii]	21

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Adviser Opposes Economic State of Emergency [ITAR-TASS]	21
Yerin Unveils R2 Trillion Crime Fighting Program [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 16 Mar]	21
President's, Premier's Stance on Late Wages Differ [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	22
Economic Ills Facing Fuel, Energy Complex Viewed [ITAR-TASS]	22

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Outlines Economic Problems in Armed Forces [Russian TV]	22
Soskovets Speaks on Defense Budget Problems [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Mar]	23
Soskovets on Readiness to Trade Defensive Weapons [ITAR-TASS]	23
Shaposhnikov Assesses State of Defense Industries [INTERFAX]	23
Defense Sector Representatives Gather [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Mar]	24
Military-Industrial Leaders Meet Kokoshin [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Mar]	24
State Arms Sale Company To Be 'State Monopoly' [Moscow TV]	25
Company Profiled [KOMMERSANT-DAILY 15 Mar]	25
Military Base Proposed as Cosmodrome Site [IZVESTIYA 12 Mar]	26
Official Denies New Cosmodrome Planned [INTERFAX]	27
Work Aboard Mir Space Station Continues [ITAR-TASS]	27

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Message on State Considered, Not Adopted [ITAR-TASS]	27
Isakov Seen Favoring Nomenklatura Rule [IZVESTIYA 15 Mar]	28
Defense Committee Chair on Legislative Aims [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 11 Mar]	29
Duma Views Law on Economic State of Emergency [INTERFAX]	31
Rybin Denies Talks [ITAR-TASS]	31
Shakhray Against Lifting Ossetian State of Emergency [INTERFAX]	31
Shakhray: Local Government Basis of Stability [ITAR-TASS]	31
Federation Council Approves 1994 Plan [ITAR-TASS]	32
Duma Vows To Speed Passage of Important Laws [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 16 Mar]	32

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Edict Suspends Nenets Referendum [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Mar]	32
Nomenklatura Win Feared in Altay Elections [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Mar]	33
Tatarstan Elections to Federal Assembly Viewed [INTERFAX]	33
CCP Head Foresees 'All-out War' in North Caucasus [INTERFAX]	33
Paper on Local Election Scene Around Country [ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 15 Mar]	34
Samara Oblast Head To Set Up Independent Government [Radio Rossii]	34
Kalmykia's Ilyumzhinov Urges Autonomy Be Jettisoned [KOMMERSANT-DAILY 16 Mar]	34
Shumeyko Visits Baltiysk, Sail on Destroyer [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Mar]	35
Gromov Inspects Sea-Worthiness of Northern Fleet [ITAR-TASS]	35

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Estonian President Meri Arrives on Official Visit [Kiev Radio]	36
Oil Pipeline Construction Agreement Reached [UKRINFORM]	36
Ukraine Defense Minister Visits Bucharest [ITAR-TASS]	36

National Affairs

Kravchuk Decree Cancels Crimean President's Poll [Kiev TV]	37
Crimean Elections, Meshkov Decree on Poll Viewed [Radio Rossii]	38
Polls Show Kravchuk Expected To Remain President [ITAR-TASS]	38
Rukh Leader To Run for President [INTERFAX]	38
Statistics on National Economic Performance in Feb [UKRINFORM]	39
Crimean Plan To Join Ruble Zone 'Speculation' [HOLOS UKRAYINY 11 Mar]	40
Official Warns No More Concessions to Crimea Separatists [Moscow TV]	40
Weapons Sales Data in Military Reduction Program [POST-POSTUP 16 Mar]	40
Naval Commander Rules Out Giving Fleet to Russia [MOLOD UKRAYINY 11 Mar]	41

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Adopts New Constitution [BELAPAN]	42
Hryb Discusses Monetary Union, Constitutional Reform [ZVYAZDA 12 Mar]	42

Moldova

Agrarian Democratic Party Wins Parliament Majority [ITAR-TASS]	43
Article Examines Aftermath of Referendum [KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI 12 Mar]	43

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Election Results Summed Up; Foreign Observers Satisfied [Almaty Radio]	45
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Kyrgyzstan

Terms Agreed for Russians in Bishkek Armed Forces [TRUD 15 Mar]	45
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Tajikistan

Kozyrev Comments on Situation at Tajik Border [INTERFAX]	45
Visits Tajik-Afghan Border Unit [ITAR-TASS]	46
Rakhmonov Sees Situation 'Relatively Stable' [PRAVDA 15 Mar]	46
Prime Minister Holds News Conference [Dushanbe Radio]	48
Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Latvia [Dushanbe Radio]	48

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Russia Urged To Denounce Treaty With Turkey [ITAR-TASS]	49
Official on Border Agreement With Russia [Yerevan Radio]	49
Ararktsyan on Talks With Azerbaijani Counterpart [Yerevan Radio]	49
Karabakh Official on Armenian-Azerbaijani Talks [SNARK]	50
Azerbaijan's 'Provocative Activities' Noted [Yerevan Radio]	50

Dissolution of Abkhaz Government Deplored [SNARK]	51
Ostankino's 'Provocative Report' Criticized [Yerevan International]	51
Parliament Rejects Government Program [SNARK]	51
Draftees To Serve in Russian Border Troops [SNARK]	52

Azerbaijan

Officials Comment on Recognition of Karabakh [TURAN]	52
Party Officials Comment on Talks [TURAN]	52
Azeri, Kyrgyz Prime Ministers Sign Agreement [Baku Radio]	52
Russian Oil Company President Arrives for Talks [TURAN]	52

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses U.S. Visit, Abkhazia [SNARK]	53
Shevardnadze Stresses Russia's Importance [INTERFAX]	53
Ardzimba, Envoy on Parliament Disbandment [Moscow Radio]	53
Advadze Denies Moscow-Washington 'Wedge' Claims [INTERFAX]	53
Ardzimba Gives News Conference on Talks [Russian TV]	54
So. Ossetian Leader: Defining Status Priority [INTERFAX]	54
Parliament Amends Laws on Cabinet of Ministers [INTERFAX]	54

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Meri Affirms 1921 Agreement With Ukraine Valid [ITAR-TASS]	55
Government Agrees To Resume Talks With Russia [Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release]	55
Russia To Begin Removing Nuclear Fuel 6 Apr [BNS]	55
Finnish Premier Arrives, Opens Talks With Laar [Tallinn Radio]	56
Further Details of Discussions [BNS]	56
'Natural Gas Network Discussed' [Helsinki Radio]	56
Government Discusses 'Temporary' Travel Documents [ETA]	57
Government Submits Bill Outlining State Secrets [ETA]	57
Assembly Party Leader on Coalition Plans [BNS]	57

Latvia

Problems in Ratifying Accord With Russia Noted [Riga Radio]	58
Outlines Documents [Riga Radio]	58
Bank President on Plans To Control Money Supply [BNS]	58

Lithuania

Russian Sovereignty Over Kaliningrad Recognized [Moscow TV]	59
Presidents Discuss Friendship Treaty With Poland [ELTA]	59
Foreign Ministry Statement on Treaty [Vilnius Radio]	59
President Accepts Forestry Minister's Resignation [Vilnius Radio]	59
Seimas Adopts Land Ownership Law [ELTA]	59
Troops To Serve With Danish UN Force in Croatia [IZVESTIYA 15 Mar]	59
Travel Documents for Stateless Persons Planned [ELTA]	60
Church: Media 'Irresponsibly' Mislead Public [BNS]	60
Paper Publishes Blank Pages in Protest [ELTA]	60

Ukraine Will Not Join 'Dangerous' CIS Security System

LD1603092894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 15 Mar—At a joint conference of defense ministers and ministers of foreign affairs of CIS countries, which will begin tomorrow [16 March] in the Russian capital, officials will search for an agreement in creating a system of collective security on the territory of the former USSR. Mr. Krzhanitskiy, Ukraine's ambassador to Russia, will represent Ukraine, which is participating in the conference as an observer.

As Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported, our state is not taking part in creating, and will not join the system of collective security. Ukraine's position is caused by its legislation:

It does not join military and political unions, blocs, or groupings. It was stressed during the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' briefing that the creation of a system of security parallel to NATO is dangerous and inexpedient. Ukraine is in favor of global collective security on the territory of Europe.

CIS Foreign Ministers Meet in Moscow 16 Mar

LD1603095894 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The latest session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CIS, and also a joint session between the Council and the Council of Defense Ministers of the member-states of the Treaty on Collective Security are being held in Moscow today. Those taking part in the meeting will discuss a prepared draft convention on ensuring the rights of people belonging to national or ethnic, as well as language and religious, minorities. The participants will also familiarize themselves with the progress of the talks between Russia and Central Asian and Transcaucasus states on cooperation in the protection of their borders with third countries.

Kozyrev: CIS More Independent, Active

LD1603131694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States is becoming more independent and active, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in Moscow Wednesday, opening the meeting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers.

He believes the meeting's agenda reflects this tendency by including all key issues ranging from the protection of human rights to the protection of borders, more efficient peace-keeping operations and the prevention of regional conflicts. "Clearly, none of us will solve these problems.

We should do so only within the framework of the Community on the basis of equality and mutual respect," he said.

Kozyrev believes that there is no need to speak about the international recognition of the Commonwealth of Independent States. "We need no international recognition. It is enough to have the decision of our presidents and parliaments for the CIS to work on and occupy a worthy place in the world. We should only speak about the development of CIS contacts with other international structures," he said.

At the meeting CIS foreign ministers plan to discuss the draft convention on the protection of the rights of national, ethnic, and religious minorities and the possible creation of a standing consultative commission for peacekeeping activities under the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers, diplomatic sources have told Interfax.

The Ministers intend to coordinate a plan of multilateral inter-ministry consultations within the CIS framework for 1994. They are also to discuss a CIS-CSCE cooperation.

The Ministers will have their say on the NATO program "Partnership for Peace."

In addition, the issue of talks between Russia and the Caucasian and Central Asian states on cooperation with the third countries on the protection of borders.

The Ministers will discuss Kazakhstan's proposal on a special session of the UN General Assembly on problems of the post-confrontation age.

Also to be discussed are the steps for the division of civilian sea vessels of the ex-Soviet Union between the CIS countries and the Baltic states.

Georgian, Ukrainian Ministers on Talks

LD1603110594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Tarauov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—"The Commonwealth of Independent States is acquiring a new quality. Today's agenda reflects this trend," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in his opening address at the meeting of CIS foreign ministers in Moscow today.

The forum is being attended by delegations from all 12 countries of the Commonwealth, including foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. Other countries are represented by ambassadors and deputy foreign ministers.

Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Ch'kvaideze told ITAR-TASS that a Georgian delegation was taking part in a meeting such as this for the first time, but as a new

member of the CIS, Georgia "will try to make its modest contribution to the strengthening of the Commonwealth".

Ukrainian Ambassador Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy told ITAR-TASS that "We have certain considerations concerning the documents examined at the forum, particularly the document on the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. We do not understand what a linguistic minority means. In our republic there are ethnic minorities—Russians and Poles. Ukraine is doing everything in its power for them not to feel that their rights are infringed upon."

Agenda for Meeting Reported

LD1603120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that the agenda of the current Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) foreign ministers' meeting here includes the following ten items:

- a draft convention on the insurance of the rights of the members of ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities,
- the establishment of a standing consultative commission on peacemaking activities,
- a 1994 plan for multilateral consultations among CIS foreign ministries,
- international recognition of the CIS and its statutory bodies (interaction between the CIS and the CSCE, and NATO's Partnership-for-Peace programme are to be considered within the framework of this item),
- the state of affairs at the talks between the Russian Federation, Central Asian and Transcaucasian states on cooperation in the guarding of their borders with third countries,
- a declaration of the observance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of CIS countries' borders,
- Kazakhstan's proposal to hold a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the problems of the post-confrontation era,
- measures to settle the question of dividing the state-run non-military ships of the former Soviet Union among CIS and Baltic states,
- the drafting of a text of a joint address by CIS countries to the CIS peoples and the world public opinion in view of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War,
- the determination of a date and venue for a regular meeting of the foreign ministers of CIS countries.

Foreign Ministers Issue Final Communique in Dushanbe

LD1503165394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1635 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe March 15 TASS—A meeting of foreign ministers from Central Asia, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation ended here today after adopting a final communique.

The communique supported an appeal of Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov to the president of the United Nations Security Council for giving the peace-making forces stationed in Tajikistan the status of a U.N. operation.

The document expressed profound alarm with the ongoing tension on The Tajik-Afghan border, which destabilizes the Tajik situation and hampers settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict.

The meeting supported efforts taken by the Tajik leadership to achieve a political settlement and expressed the hope the negotiations will stop armed actions on the Tajik-Afghan border. The communique praised Russian and U.N. attention given to the Tajik problem with the aim of the soonest inter-Tajik settlement through a political dialogue.

It expressed the hope the parties to the conflict will find a political way to achieve national accord and civic peace and confirmed the readiness of Central Asian republics and Russia to help progress in development of inter-state relations.

After a brief trip to the Tajik-Afghan border, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a tete-a-tete meeting with Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov to discuss the border situation and the need for border reinforcement, including that with personnel.

The Tajik leader assured the diplomat the Tajik Government will soon send 5,000 draftees to the border in the near future.

The sides also discussed the Tajik situation and the need for accelerated political dialogue with the opposition. The sides agreed that negotiations with the opposition to start in the immediate future will help a lot.

CIS Heads of State Summit Postponed to Mid-Apr

LD1603100494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The press service of the executive secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States has reported that the session of the Council of Heads of State and the

Council of Heads of Governments of the CIS, planned for 30-31 March in Moscow, have been postponed until the middle of April.

Agreement Reached on Gas Supplies to Baltic Countries

LD1403191794 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Russia has concluded an agreement with the Baltic countries on supplying gas in 1994 on mutually advantageous conditions. Lentransgas Director General Radionov announced this to journalists today. He was a member of the delegation from the Rossiyskiy Gaz joint-stock company which has just completed a trip to the Baltics. As its participants noted, the disagreements which arose last year between Russia on the one hand and Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia on the other because of irregular payments for gas consumption have completely disappeared. Having received credits from the West, the Baltic countries have covered all their debts. Lithuania is the exception and has undertaken to remit \$5 million by 15 March. The price of gas is set according to average European prices, which is about \$80 per thousand cubic meters.

The agreement on gas supplies which has been signed means a significant influx of hard currency to the budgets of St. Petersburg and the oblast, over the territory of which the gas is transported to the Baltic.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Mar

LD1603071094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0538 GMT 16 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the situation in Tajikistan:

"The situation has now radically changed: Moscow has managed to do what seemed impossible only recently—to persuade the present Dushanbe authorities and the opposition into sitting down at the negotiating table".

"Moscow's rather rigid stand in the reassessment of events in Tajikistan by the leader of the regional superpower, Islam Karimov, make it possible to hope that at the forthcoming talks the conflicting sides will reach some kind of compromise: If Moscow succeeds in achieving success, that will be a major triumph of Russian diplomacy".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Umer-serik Kasenov, director of the Institute of Strategic Studies to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kasenov points out: "The process of the formation and development of newly-independent states is now under way in Central Asia in difficult conditions. Much in this process undoubtedly depends on Russia which keeps

hold of powerful economic, political and military levers for influencing the situation in the Central Asian region...

"Unfortunately, Russia's foreign-policy course with regard to the ex-Soviet republics, including Central Asian ones, increasingly indicates that it pursues a divide-and-rule policy".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict:

"Vladislav Ardzinba availed himself of the ground provided by the Georgian parliament to announce the termination of political talks between Georgia and Abkhazia until the decision to dissolve the Abkhazian parliament and to institute judicial proceedings against its members is cancelled.

"Despite the fact that the dispute, it would seem, is a formal legal one and concerns the situation which preceded the start of the armed conflict, the Georgian parliament's resolution really interrupted the contradictory as it was dialogue which has been conducted until now between representatives of the two conflicting sides".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Ramiz Razayev, plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Russia, who points out:

"As far as Russia's role in a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is concerned, one should proceed from the assumption that Russia's geopolitical and economic interests are in need of stability on its southern borders... Therefore, we regard Russia's active participation in settlement efforts and the country's unprejudiced stand as major factors leading to a resolution of this complex problem".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Mikhail Mironov, chief of the mail department of the presidential staff. He said that up to 1,500 letters addressed to the country's president come in every day and deal with a broad spectrum of problems while the department has 100 staff members.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA referring to an informed staff member of the central office of the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FCS) asserts that "the presidential administration is studying as one of reorganisation options the possibility of dividing the FCS with a transfer of its functions to other bodies.

"The FCS counter-intelligence operations directorate is expected, in particular, to be turned over to the Ministry of Justice and to be transformed into a federal investigation directorate.

"The economic counter-intelligence directorate and directorate for the security of strategically important industrial facilities is suggested to be subordinated to the

Ministry of Economics while the military counterintelligence will be brought under the authority of the General Staff as an independent directorate.

"The anti-terrorism directorate is expected to be brought within the competence of the Interior Ministry. The idea of dividing the FCS is authored by one of the members of the Russian Security Council...

"FCS Chief Sergey Stepashin said he will have a meeting with the Russian president soon. He did not refute the information that proposals to reorganise the FCS and transfer its powers to other agencies come in to Boris Yeltsin.

"If the proposals are implemented, a serious blow will be dealt to security agencies. I categorically object to it and I oppose those who make such proposals. One should ponder what for they do that. I am deeply convinced that Russia and the president need strong secret services. I will uphold this thesis during a meeting with Yeltsin," Stepashin said.

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER) Carries an interview with Major-General Yuriy Drozdov, former chief of illegals' counterintelligence. He expressed regret that the Vypel special-purpose unit has broken up. He regarded with understanding the Vypel officers who did not opt to serve on the payroll of the Interior Ministry.

"I do not censure them. They were prepared to uphold the interests of the native land and their people from an outside foe and outside their country. The sense of devotion to their people, the duty and honour of the intelligence officer did not allow them to act otherwise".

The general referred to the break-up of the unit as "the worst thing that could happen". He is convinced that such a unit is necessary for the country now as well, emphasising that a special-purpose unit, whose officers did not know what the word 'impossible' meant, has ceased to exist.

In PRAVDA, prominent film director Stanislav Govorukhin said on the same subject:

"the October events showed: the Ministry of Security will not carry out criminal orders and will not act against their people. To my mind, it has already become a

commonly known fact how worthily the ministry's units Alpha and Vypel behaved in those days.

"I want to draw the readers' particular attention to the following circumstance: the Security Ministry was disbanded at a time when it almost entirely switched over to action against economic crime which inflicts the greatest damage on the state".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs an interview with Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Armed Forces' General Staff, who said that the operational structure of troops has been basically broken up following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"We have lost territory and, accordingly, the strategic echelon, while the reserve forces constitute the core of the first operational echelon. It was needed to create groups of troops throughout the western and south-western sectors practically anew".

Kolesnikov said the complexity was in the fact that units subject to withdrawal had to settle in places which lacked the necessary infrastructure. "This was taking place during the period of the development and reforming of the Armed Forces with an acute shortage of material resources and funds", Kolesnikov said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma committee on information policy and communications, who suggests that the powers of the president and parliament be extended until 1998.

Poltoranin touched upon the problem of drawing up a memorandum of civil accord. His opinion is that such a document should be backed up by deeds without fail. "Let it be a small memorandum with clear-cut declarations but it should be supplemented without fail with a treaty on coordinated actions of the authorities, specific actions with a specific time-frame."

ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE reports that the Ivangorod mayor's office has reinstated a voluntary public order maintenance squad. The newspaper points out that every member of the public order squad will be paid for every hour on duty from the funds of the city department of internal affairs while the maintenance of the chief of staff of the squad has been assumed by the mayor's office.

Zhirinovskiy Cautions U.S. on 'Radical Democrats'

LD1503201094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, asked the U.S. "not to support those who had lost the parliamentary elections on December 12, that is to say Gaydar, Yavlinskiy, Shakh-ray and others who consider themselves democrats. This was announced by Zhirinovskiy after a meeting with former U.S. President Richard Nixon which lasted for about an hour and a half.

According to Zhirinovskiy, the former U.S. President "has the right understanding of the situation in the world and of our problems."

"The main point that I wanted to make known to U.S. President Bill Clinton is that he must not be afraid of me," Zhirinovskiy emphasized. He said Russia was moving towards a military regime and the danger stemmed from those who had lost the elections, from the so-called radical democrats.

Commenting on the chances of candidates running for presidential elections "which may take place earlier than within two years," Zhirinovskiy said his only real contender was former Russian vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy. According to the LDP leader, neither Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, nor Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, neither Gaydar, Yavlinskiy and Shakh-ray, nor candidates from "the Communist, pro-communist or patriotic forces" could be his contenders.

Richard Nixon's advisor, Dmitri Simes, told the news conference that Zhirinovskiy had told Nixon that Yeltsin was "losing his influence." According to Symes, Nixon gave neither personal comments nor assessments during their conversation.

Asked whether Nixon changed his opinion of Zhirinovskiy after their meeting, Simes said that Nixon had been "informed that Mr. Zhirinovskiy could perform in different genres and in different situations. I am confident that the way Mr. Zhirinovskiy spoke today made due impression on President Nixon and he could place it in a certain context, since he knew both the speeches and political history of Mr. Zhirinovskiy."

Shortly after his meeting with Zhirinovskiy, Nixon received the leader of the Democratic Party of Russia faction in the State Duma, Nikolay Travkin. Their meeting lasted for 1 hour 20 minutes.

In an interview with Interfax, Travkin said the conversation mainly focused on economic issues and prospects for equal partnership between Russia and the U.S. According to Travkin, he told Nixon that Russia would "not fall into coups and civil wars," because Russia had everything needed to avoid it. The only thing "lacking is political will, that of the president in the first place. You seem the only optimist here," concluded Nixon.

Zhirinovskiy Meets With Nixon

LD1503145994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Former U.S. President Richard Nixon met Tuesday with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian nationalist "Liberal Democratic" party.

The meeting was held behind closed doors.

The press service of Zhirinovskiy's party told ITAR-TASS that the two politicians focused on Russian-American relations "taking into consideration the geopolitical interests of the two countries", and on inter-parliamentary contacts.

Zhirinovskiy handed to Nixon a personal message addressed to President Bill Clinton, the press service said.

According to press reports, Nixon wanted to meet Zhirinovskiy during his week-long visit to Moscow to get a clearer idea of the broad spectrum of Russian political leaders capable of influencing developments in the country.

Zhirinovskiy, however, denied last week that he wanted to meet the American ex-president.

Security Council Official Meets Nixon

LD1503130994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, received former U.S. President Richard Nixon today. In the course of a frank conversation lasting an hour and a half there was discussion of topical problems relating to Russia's domestic political situation, support for Russia's reforms and ensuring international security and stability.

Vladivostok Talks Part of 'Mature Partnership'

PM1503160394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "From Position of Mature Partnership"]

[Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated his intention of conducting his present talks in Vladivostok with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher "from the position of a mature strategic partnership."

During the meeting that started in the Vladivostok Airport building straight after the official welcome ceremony for Warren Christopher, the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign policy departments plan to discuss a broad range of political, economic, and other issues.

In turn U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at a press conference in Beijing before leaving for Vladivostok that consultations and coordination between Russia and the United States are extremely desirable.

With regard to the statements that "Russia is unhappy about being regarded as a junior partner," Christopher stressed that "Kozyrev has never said that to me. We are partners in our desire for reforms and support for reformers in Russia. And we will discuss these issues." [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Comments Prior to Christopher Meeting

PM1603105594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Pavel Shinkarenko under "Diplomacy" rubric: "Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher Are 'Filling the Cracks' Which Have Appeared in the Edifice of Russian-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] Only two months have passed since the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, which was successful in every respect, but quite a few "cracks" have appeared in the edifice of the Russian-U.S. partnership announced in Moscow. There has been the Ames espionage "affair," the embarrassment over the Moscow visit of ex-President Nixon, Washington's emissary, and the different readings of ways to settle the Bosnian crisis. Let us add to this the tragedy in the Arab mosque in Hebron, which interrupted the process which had begun of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict; the problems of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries....

As we see, there are quite a few topics to analyze. Therefore the latest meeting between the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign policy departments, which took place in Vladivostok yesterday, resembled the work of restorers filling cracks in the walls of an ancient building. International problems were also discussed in passing. Particularly as Andrey Kozyrev has just visited the Near East, where he held talks with the leaders of Israel and the PLO, while Warren Christopher has visited a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

At Vnukovo Airport, from where the head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs flew to Vladivostok, Andrey Kozyrev remarked in conversation with journalists that there are certain circles both in the United States and in Russia which dislike cooperation between the two countries, particularly when it takes on a strategic nature. Nevertheless, the minister believes that Russian-U.S. relations will continue to be based on the principles of the Moscow Declaration. "It is a strategic, mature partnership, indications of which are a commonality of interests and a close level of contacts," he emphasized.

U.S. Submarines Active Off Russian Coasts

LD1603124994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander of the Russian Navy, said that even though our former "potential enemies have become our partners, their activities off the Russian coasts has not reduced."

He told INTERFAX that "contacts and even collisions" with U.S. submarines off the Russian coasts had been registered last year. The submarines were most active off the Kola Peninsula and the Russian Far Eastern Maritime Territory.

Kasatonov said that "the U.S. subs have not left those areas. On the contrary, they show vigor and enviable tenacity."

According to Russian Navy experts, "foreign countries have retained the formations of their surface ships and submarines," Kasatonov emphasized.

"This compels the Russian military to act so as to protect Russia's safety," Kasatonov said.

He denied that Russian submarines were prowling off Florida.

U.S. Talks on Uranium-239 Production Viewed

LD1503193094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0325 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Arkadiy Sidoruk]

[Text] Washington, 15 Mar—The development of cooperation with the United States of America in the energy sphere is the main preoccupation of Viktor Mikhaylov, Russia's minister of atomic energy, who is paying a working visit to the United States.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, V. Mikhaylov disclosed that one of the main objectives of the visit and the business meetings which began at the Department of Energy on Monday is to get the U.S. side to make a decision on ways to help Russia to end production of enriched uranium-239. On the American side the meetings are being chaired by Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.

The visit is taking place in the context of the work done by the bilateral intergovernmental commission chaired by U.S. Vice President Albert Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian minister said. The members of this commission have already agreed that Russia will be given U.S. financial assistance to build a store for weapons-grade materials, which could subsequently be used as fuel for nuclear power stations. Washington has already allocated the first \$75 million for the purchase of equipment for this project, Mikhaylov noted. We now intend to ask the Americans to speed up the handover of another \$75 million for

actual construction of the store. In return we are prepared to speed up a decision on halting production of weapons-grade plutonium—which, incidentally, is our objective anyway. However, it has to be remembered that the capacities which produce plutonium also generate electricity and heat. Therefore, the replacement of these capacities with alternative forms of energy production is a pressing matter. We also intend to discuss this question during the visit to Washington. Concluding the interview, Mikhaylov noted that Russian experts have developed a good working relationship with their U.S. colleagues, and this fact gives grounds for hoping that the results of the present visit will be useful.

Our joint aim is to assist with the practical implementation of the agreement reached in Moscow last December by Albert Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin on the closure of Russia's three remaining plutonium reactors—two at Krasnoyarsk and one in Tomsk—and their replacement with alternative sources of energy production. Birks, special assistant to the U.S. energy secretary on Russia and other CIS countries, told ITAR-TASS. Birks, who is also attending the working meetings, says he is sure that a detailed report, including all the technical details, will be prepared in time for the third session of the intergovernmental commission, chaired by the U.S. vice president and the Russian prime minister. This will be held at the end of May.

Kozyrev Returns From Vladivostok, Dushanbe

LD1503220394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2150 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev returned to Moscow on Friday night upon the completion of his trip to Vladivostok and Dushanbe.

When in the Far East, the minister met U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher to discuss a broad range of international issues and bilateral relations, and when in Tajikistan he met foreign ministers from Central Asia and Kazakhstan to discuss prospects for inter-Tajik political settlement.

Andrey Kozyrev also visited a workshop of the Pacific Fleet and a border post at the Tajik-Afghan border.

PLO Leader, Israeli Premier To Visit Moscow

LD1503165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (TASS)—PLO leader Yasser Arafat will visit Moscow on April 19 and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will make a Moscow visit on

April 24-26 at the invitation of President Yeltsin and under an agreement reached during the recent Tunisian and Israeli visits of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for Middle East and Northern Africa Viktor Gogitidze told a briefing here today.

Estimating Kozyrev's trip, Gogitidze said that major tasks were fulfilled: An essential agreement of both sides was reached and PLO leader Yasser Arafat is ready to resume the negotiations. The Russian side is convinced both the Israelis and the Palestinians are adherent to the peace process and would like further talks.

"The Russian side stressed that in case of resumed dialogue the main attention should be given to the soonest completion of negotiations on the Gaza-Jericho project. Measures to implement the project should immediately follow," said the diplomat. In his opinion, "this would help to cool passions and guarantee, to a certain degree, security on the occupied lands".

Russia will take more efforts to achieve the soonest completion of negotiations on Gaza-Jericho and help the implementation of agreements, said Gogitidze. "Today's priority is the adoption of a Security Council resolution on Hebron. If the resolution is adopted there will be no obstacles for the resumption of Israeli-PLO negotiations," he stressed.

The settlers' problem that has grown most acute may be discussed "parallelly with the resumption of Israeli-PLO negotiations. A form of its solution can be found with the assistance of Russian diplomats, the co-sponsors and in direct contacts between Israel and the PLO," said Gogitidze.

Russia's Return to World Affairs Welcomed

PM1503163194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Vladimir Belyakov commentary: "The Return of the Russian Bear"]

[Text] Cairo—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has been on a trip to the Near East. He visited Israel and Tunisia, where the headquarters of the PLO are located. As Kozyrev stated during the trip, its aim was to save the Near East "peace process." It was interrupted after an Israeli settler carried out a massacre in a mosque in the Palestinian city of Hebron 25 February, killing and wounding dozens of people.

Russia reacted quickly to this crime and its political consequences. First of all First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov left for Tunisia and Israel. Then President Boris Yeltsin appointed Viktor Pavlov, director of the Near East Department at the Foreign Ministry, as his special representative in the region. And finally, Andrey Kozyrev's trip took place. Usually it is the other co-initiator of the "peace process"—the United States—

that displays such verve if, like now, unexpected obstacles arise on the path of talks. But this time U.S. diplomacy concentrated its efforts on weakening the essence of the Palestinian draft UN Security Council resolution condemning the massacre in Hebron and listing a set of measures to protect the population of the lands occupied by Israel. So Moscow's emissaries have acted in proud solitude.

It is noteworthy that Russian diplomats also arrived with their own ideas, different from the American ones. Essentially, they identified with the PLO's stance. "It is necessary to ensure extra security for the Palestinians and an international presence in the occupied territories," Kozyrev stated in Israel. Russia also proposed that all participants in the talks should meet again in Madrid in order to sum up the results of the "peace process" since October 1991 and give it new impetus.

Moscow's proposals on "Madrid 2" have generated a contradictory reaction. The PLO has come out in support of the proposals, while Israel has rejected them. The United States has also expressed its dissatisfaction, and indeed not only with the proposals as such, but also with the actual fact of Russia taking its own steps. After all, Washington has gotten used to hearing only cries of approval from Moscow concerning its foreign policy actions.

Russia's current activity in the Near East has been greeted with approval in the Arab world, if not always in essence, then at least in form. The press is noting that for the second time this year Moscow is operating independently of Washington—first in Bosnia, and now in the Arab-Israeli conflict. "The Russian bear is returning to the international arena," the Saudi AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT states. And not just the Near East, but also other areas on our planet have been waiting for this for a long time.

Churkin Returns to Belgrade; Views Bosnia Talks

LD1503223994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin has arrived in Belgrade after talks in Zagreb and Sarajevo.

[Begin Churkin recording] We do have some ideas how we can make further progress toward a political settlement, taking into account the latest developments, the advancement toward setting up a Muslim-Croatian federation. What concerns me, for example, is how the rights of the Serbs, who are one of the peoples making up the state, will be regarded and ensured in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which should in our view be preserved as a territorial, integral state. Will they join the Muslim-Croatian federation which is currently being set up? It seems to me that it is of fundamental importance that Croats and Muslims possess sovereign rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It should be obvious that the Serbs

should have the same sovereign rights, too. [end recording] [Video shows Churkin being interviewed at airport:]

Sarajevo Visit Detailed

PM1503142594 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Sergey Sidorov report under general heading: "Some Want Peace, Others Political Points"]

[Text] Sarajevo—Life in Sarajevo has taken a radical turn toward peace. It coincided with the arrival here of the Russian contingent. Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian Federation president's special representative for the former Yugoslavia, declared this in conversation with KRSNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent. He visited the Bosnian capital Sunday during another working tour of the region for the purpose of developing the peace trend which has become apparent in the city and extending it to the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Within the framework of the consultations in Sarajevo the Russian diplomat held talks with Alija Izetbegovic, leader of the Bosnian Muslims. In Pale he met with Nikola Kolic, member of the leadership of the Bosnian Serb community. Ways to develop the peace process after the Croat and Muslim sides signed the plans to create a Croat-Muslim federation in Bosnia were the object of discussion.

Then V. Churkin visited the Russian battalion's billet in the capital's Vraca district and went to one of the observation posts where Russian "blue helmets" are serving. In conversation with servicemen the Russian Federation president's special representative rated highly the speed with which the battalion has settled in in its new location and begun tackling very difficult peace-making tasks. Such effectiveness, he emphasized, elicits a feeling of pride in Russia's Armed Forces.

Another subject was also touched upon—the resolution of the problems of a psychological kind which the Bosnian Muslim side experienced at first in connection with the so unexpected arrival of the Russian contingent. As is known, some representatives of the Muslim leadership have made nervous and at times even irresponsible statements about this. For example, they have called the Russian battalion an occupying battalion. In Churkin's opinion, this problem has now been eliminated.

On the conclusion of his visit to "Rusbat-2," as the Russian contingent in Sarajevo is now being called, Vitaliy Churkin once again emphasized the importance of Russian participation in UN peacemaking operations. Joint service in an important cause with the French, the British, and representatives of other states, he emphasized, is far more useful for arranging cooperation between armies than organizing conferences.

Russia, U.S. Urged To Eschew Point-Scoring in Bosnia

PM1503145594 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy article under general heading: "Some Want Peace, Others Political Points"]

[Text] During the last days of last week a wave of articles swept through both Russian and foreign mass media. Their essence may be boiled down to the following sentence: Russia is losing its role as first violin in the peacemaking in the former Yugoslavia. This is linked to the success of the Washington talks on forming a Muslim-Croat federation, as well as to the fact that Bosnia's Serbs will not join this federation. It was these "surprise discoveries" that made some journalists and even politicians say that "the peacemakers' laurels are passing from Moscow to Washington."

Such statements could even have been ignored owing to their scant seriousness in the matter of big-time politics. But they are being made at a time of a certain general cooling in Russian-U.S. relations and could exacerbate the situation still further. Therefore, I believe, it should be clearly decided that Russia and Washington cannot compete to see who will earn more points or who will be the tragedy of the Yugoslav peoples. Both great powers are doing what they can and what is in their power to end the fratricidal war and to restore a just peace in Bosnia as quickly as possible. What is more, our countries are agreeing and coordinating their efforts between themselves. The Bosnian problem, by the way, is one of the most important on the agenda of the Vladivostok talks between Andrey Kozyrev and Warren Christopher.

They really do have something to discuss. Unilateral initiatives far from always spell success. For example, that federation in Bosnia and the prospects for forming its confederation with Croatia. Work on preparing the draft constitution of the Bosnian federation was completed Sunday under the Americans' patronage in their embassy building in Vienna. Its official signing is scheduled for Friday. But it is not enough to sign a document, it is necessary to make it work.

Without Serbian participation (and this will hardly be achieved without Russia) in the "divorce process" the vitality of the new federation will be in question if only because its formation provides for the transfer of 60 percent of Bosnia's territory to Muslim and Croat control. Today approximately 70 percent of the country's territory is in Serb hands. Will they agree to voluntary concessions? If so, on what terms?

The fact that the federation's creators have left the doors to it open for the Bosnian Serbs as well is, most likely, simply a political goodwill gesture. It is obvious that the Serbs, if the question of their joining anyone at all arises, will choose, rather, federal Yugoslavia, the present union of Serbia and Montenegro. This decision will have its pluses and its minuses. The positive aspects are clearer.

The negative aspects are less obvious but have more complex consequences: The likelihood of forming a new "Greater Serbia" and "Greater Croatia" is fraught with a deeper split and growing tension.

The resolution of both the present and the long-term problems, precisely because of their complexity, requires concerted joint actions by all the interested sides, not a race to pick up political points and to maintain the image of peacemakers.

Diplomat Views Plans for New COCOM

LD1503173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] In Vladivostok on Monday Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher agreed that Russian experts would take part in drafting the project of a new COCOM.

A high-ranking Russian diplomat close to Kozyrev told INTERFAX that this was an extremely important aspect of Russian-American cooperation for the nonproliferation of missiles and other dangerous know-how.

"Suffice it to recall the incident involving the export of Russian cryogenic boosters to India and the restrictive moves of the West in relation to Russia, to understand how important this question is. The American side has understood at last that the nonproliferation of dangerous know-how is our common concern and treats Russia with more trust now," he said.

The fact that Russian experts will be involved in drafting the concept of a new COCOM from the very start is particularly important, he went on to say. They will not have to wait for what America will prepare for them, he added.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Azeri-Armenian Meeting

LD1503175394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Moscow Welcomes the March 12 meeting of Azeri Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev and his Armenian counterpart Babken Ararktsyan, their essential agreements and striving to continue personal contacts, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

Russia has always supported and encouraged direct conflicts between the warring sides on a realistic basis, he said [sentence as received].

In the opinion of the diplomat, vague wordings of the cease-fire protocol resulted in close contact of the warring units and resumption of fighting.

Russia insistently continues mediating efforts and interacts with all states and international organizations interested in settlement of the Karabakh conflict, stressed the Foreign Ministry's spokesman.

Foreign Ministry Fears Georgian-Abkhaz Fighting

LD1503174894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Dmitriy Chubarov]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—The Russian Foreign ministry expressed grave concern over the danger of fresh armed clashes in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone. The Ministry's chief spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing today that "Georgian-Abkhazian relations have got exacerbated recently".

According to the spokesman, at the latest round of Russian-brokered talks on political settlement in Abkhazia, which was held under the U.N. auspices in New York on March 7-9, the Georgian side threatened "to go back to war path" unless the independence-seeking Abkhazia recognized Georgia's territorial integrity and agreed to the return of all ethnic Georgian refugees.

Karasin stressed that the Russian side was taking "a number of urgent steps to prevent fresh fighting in Abkhazia and to keep the negotiating process going".

Russia will also press for a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia to be carried out by the United Nations or with its approval and "resting, if need be, on a Russian military contingent", the Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasised.

Minister on Dismantling Ukraine's Nuclear Warheads

LD1503222294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Dismantling the nuclear warheads being withdrawn from the territory of Ukraine is an issue which is causing grave concern to those involved in the protection of the environment. The processing of radioactive materials may cause serious damage to the environment. Today, we learned that warheads from the Ukrainian missiles are being sent to the town of Arzamas-16. Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, the Minister of Natural Resources:

[Begin Danilov-Danilyan recording] Only to Arzamas-16. It is the enterprise that specializes in these particular things. From the point of view of the general safety of Russia it is better to bring Ukrainian warheads to Russia, to dismantle them and process what they contain, rather than to leave them in Ukraine. My honest word; this is better. If another incident should occur there, consequences will be far greater than from Chernobyl. [end recording]

Gasprom To Reduce Supplies to Ukraine 'Early Apr'

LD1603115594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 16 BUSINESS-TASS—Russia's giant natural gas supplier Gasprom thinks that a new reduction of gas deliveries to Ukraine are "quite likely" in early April.

The thing is that Gasprom's European partners get less than their due because Ukraine "draws away" some of the gas during its transit via Ukrainian territory, sources in Gasprom told ITAR-TASS today.

The pressure of gas in the pipelines leading to Western Europe and particularly to Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey is lower than designed although Gasprom has resumed feeding as much gas as agreed and more into the pipeline - 470 million cubic meters a day. The extra deliveries are designed to compensate Ukraine for the termination of natural gas deliveries from Turkmenistan (80 million cubic meters a day).

Ukraine has failed to conform to one of the most important articles of the agreement reached between the Ukrainian governmental delegation and the Gasprom leadership.

Under the agreement, Gasprom resumed the deliveries of the stipulated amount of gas until April 10 pending termination of Ukraine's unlicensed use of natural gas from the export pipeline passing through Ukraine. Ukraine also promised to work out a specific mechanism of repaying its debt for the supplies of gas to Ukraine in 1993-1994 and to begin to pay off the debts.

Other articles of the agreement also have yet to be fulfilled. Ukraine has remitted less than a fraction of one percent of its 1.5 trillion arrears to the Gasprom account, and according to Russian experts, its financial potential is well-nigh exhausted.

There is one way of offsetting Ukraine's indebtedness to Russia - through the switch to joint ownership of the underground gas storage facilities and main gas pipelines on the Ukrainian territory, according to Gasprom. Regrettably, the agreement in principle on this reached during the negotiations in Moscow has met with no support on the part of the Ukrainian leadership.

Details of Latvian Troop Withdrawal Treaty Given

LD1503165694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] It seems as though Moscow and Riga have at long last established common ground over the withdrawal of Russian forces.

[Correspondent Vlada Vishnevskaya] Today the heads of the state delegations at the Russo-Latvian negotiations, Sergey Zotov and Martins Virsis, initialled an

agreement on the conditions and timetable for the withdrawal of Russian forces from Latvian territory, an agreement on social security for servicemen in the Russian army, military pensioners and members of their families, and a treaty on the temporary functioning of the Skrunda radar station.

So, the bilateral talks which have been going on for two years have entered the concluding stage. The delegations have managed to reach agreement on the fundamental question, the timetable for the withdrawal of forces. Ten thousand Russian servicemen will be withdrawn from Latvia by 31 August this year. The problem of the lease payment for the use of the Skrunda radar remains unresolved. Russia is offering 2 million dollars, but this is not acceptable to the Latvians. However, the leaders of the delegations believe that these disagreements should not affect the final signing of the agreements which were initiated today. The documents may be signed when the Russian and Latvian presidents meet. According to the head of the Russian delegation, this meeting could take place as early as April.

Western Diplomats Hail Potential of Tatarstan Treaty

PM1603095794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report under "Contacts" rubric: "Visits by Diplomats"]

[Text] A number of Western countries' embassies in Moscow, having followed closely the development of relations between Tatarstan and Russia, sent their diplomats to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tatarstan in Moscow immediately after the signing of the bilateral treaty.

I.U. Yusupov, Tatarstan's permanent representative in Moscow, welcomed the following people for talks: M. Stross [name as transliterated], trade adviser to the French Embassy, and N. Shibayev [name as transliterated], this same embassy's adviser on political questions; Dr. Kh. Kretshmer [name as transliterated], EU deputy chief of mission; N. Foster, first secretary for political questions at the British Embassy; A. Ruigrok [name as transliterated], first secretary at the Dutch Embassy; and A. Hughes, second secretary at the South African Embassy.

During the meetings the diplomats expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the treaty process and conveyed their congratulations to the Tatarstan leadership in the light of the treaty's signing.

Particular attention was paid during the talks to a discussion of this document's international-legal aspects, and above all the extensive opportunities the treaty opens up for participation in international organizations and the establishment and development of direct relations with foreign states, including for purposes of concluding agreements.

Chernomurdin, Poland's Pawlak Conclude Talks

LD1503171994 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1404 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] On Tuesday in Moscow talks between the prime-ministers of Russia and Poland Viktor Chernomyrdin and Waldemar Pawlak were followed by the signing of two agreements: on the principles of employment of Russian citizens in Poland and Polish citizens in Russia and on a joint anti-monopoly policy.

According to Chernomyrdin, the main task in economic cooperation is to liven up the process, make it faster. He admitted stagnation in a number of spheres of bilateral relations and said it should be overcome as soon as possible. Among such spheres Chernomyrdin named financial relations, the question of mutual debts, cooperation in military-technical matters and contacts between border areas.

The Russian prime-minister stated that concrete officials have been appointed who should work out a mechanism of resolving these problems by May. The two prime-ministers will meet in May in Warsaw to discuss the expansion of cooperation the next stage of which should be control over approved agreements and decisions.

The Polish prime-minister remarked that there is a practical foundation now for signing long-term trade and economic agreements and an appropriate protocol for this year. He said the absence of a decision on the matter of mutual debts on which the ministries of finance of the two countries are working "should not block economic cooperation". Answering a question about the anxiety caused in Poland by the concentration of Russian troops in Kaliningrad region the prime-minister said that the matter should be left for the presidents of the two countries to decide.

Russia, Germany To Assist Ethnic Germans

LD1503181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1656 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The German Government will channel DM [German mark] 65 Mn in 1994 for assistance to ethnic Germans residing in Russia, while the Russian Government will set aside Rbs 39 Bn for the same purpose, Russia's Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy, Sergey Shakh-ray, told a news conference in the State Duma Tuesday. Recently, Shakh-ray took part in a meeting of the intergovernmental Commission for Russian Germans' issues.

According to Shakh-ray, the Russian delegation confirmed to the meeting that Russia was "interested in keeping all Russian Germans in Russia." At his assessment, the number of those leaving Russia for Germany decreased slightly in 1993. At the same time, the number of Germans coming to Russia from Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan was bigger than that of emigrants to Germany.

Shakhray pointed out that the only way for the gradual restoration of Russian Germans' statehood was to pass a federal law on the creation of new subjects of the Russian Federation in areas predominantly populated by Germans. He pointed out that the process might take several years.

At the same time, Shakhray said the attitude of residents of the Volgograd and Saratov regions located along the Volga River, where a German autonomous region was planned to be created, had become more favorable. These regions used to be a densely German-populated area before 1941.

Asked whether the draft power-sharing treaty between the center and the Kaliningrad region (a Russian exclave located between Lithuania and Poland —IF's note) would be similar to the one between Moscow and Kazan, Shakhray said his ministry had been instructed by the president and the government to prepare a treaty on the issue before April.

In Shakhray's opinion, the law on a special status of the Kaliningrad region that Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko had referred to during his trip to the region, "neither ran counter, nor precluded such a power-sharing treaty between the Kaliningrad region and the Russian Federation."

Speaking on the parliamentary elections in Tatarstan, Shakhray pointed out that his ministry considered their returns to show the approval or disapproval of the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan. In his opinion, Tatars' active participation in the elections (57.2

) was evidence of their support for the treaty.

DPRK Envoy Discusses Stance in North-South Talks

*SK1603062794 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean
1200 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A news conference was held for Russian reporters at the DPRK Embassy in Moscow on 14 March. Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, spoke at the new conference. He briefed Pyongyang's position in connection with the North-South talks for the exchange of top-level special envoys.

Station reporter (Aleksey Kolony) who attended the news conference reports: The DPRK ambassador quoted a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman's 13 March statement. The statement indicates that North-South dialogue held to discuss the issue of exchanging top-level special envoys has encountered a serious barrier recently.

Ambassador Son continued to say: "As you know, in the DPRK-U.S. contact held recently, an agreement was reached in conducting the four-point joint actions simultaneously. That is to say, the two sides agreed to put the

four points into action simultaneously. They are: First, the United States announces the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Second, we receive an inspection to ensure the continuity of safeguards. Third, we hold North-South working-level delegates' contact for the exchange of special envoys. Fourth, the DPRK and the United States hold the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks."

Saying that Pyongyang is ready to abide by all problems which have already been agreed upon, the DPRK ambassador briefed on the current situation in North-South dialogue.

[Son] "However, the persons in authority of South Korea, unlike the attitude they took in the early days of their assumption of power, opposed the exchange of special envoys simply because we proposed it. They opposed [words indistinct]. However, giving in to our strong demand and the Korean people's pressure calling for holding North-South dialogue, they reluctantly responded to the working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys.

Proceeding from our will to create a good atmosphere for the realization of the exchange of special envoys, we proposed the following four demands at the fourth working-level contact: First, the suspension of all large-scale nuclear military exercises. Second, the renunciation of the international alliance system in connection with our so-called nuclear problem. Third, the suspension of the plan to deploy Patriot missiles to South Korea. Fourth, the cancellation of the remarks by the person in authority in South Korea that he cannot shake hands with a counterpart who possesses nuclear weapons. We proposed the above because we believed these issues should be resolved first in order to provide favorable circumstances for the working-level contact on the exchange of special envoys to proceed amid an atmosphere of mutual trust between the North and the South."

In conclusion, responding to the station reporter's question about the prospects of the North-South dialogue, DPRK Ambassador Son Song-pil said: "Problems seem complicated. However, they are actually not complicated. Who complicates problems? It is precisely the South Korean authorities and the United States. The pressing issue that should be solved between the DPRK and the United States at present is the nuclear issue. As I said earlier, the South Korean authorities are not in a position to edge themselves into this issue.

What the U.S. side needs to do is withdraw U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons from South Korea and renounce its large-scale military and nuclear threats and hostile policy against us. In return for this, we will receive nuclear inspections. Thus, the United States and we should resolve problems, and others should not be involved in this. Therefore, the issue of solving the nuclear issue through a package settlement should be solved first through the talks between the United States

and us. If the United States removes its nuclear weapons from South Korea, thereby removing the nuclear threat against us, a package settlement of the nuclear issue will be realized and the basic issues between us and the United States will be eliminated anyway."

DPRK Group Say Nonnuclear Process Depends on Japan

PM1503163994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Mar 94 p 3

["Own information" report under "Correspondents Comment" rubric: "Korean Peninsula To Be Nuclear-Free?"]

[Text] In the last few days there have been encouraging signs of prospects for pacification on the Korean peninsula and for turning it into a nuclear-free zone, a statement by the Russian Society for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation With the DPRK says. An International Atomic Energy Agency inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities has begun. High-level talks on exchanging special envoys between North and South have been resumed. South Korea and the United States have desisted from holding the provocative "Team Spirit-94" joint military maneuvers. Finally, an agreement has been reached on resuming the third round of the North Korean-U.S. talks in Geneva on 21 March this year. All this gives rise to hope of a solution to the so-called nuclear question, that is to say the question of ridding the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons.

But this is quite obviously only the beginning of a general process of achieving nonnuclear status for Northeast Asia. It must not be forgotten that the country behind all the insinuations regarding nuclear developments in North Korea is above all none other than Japan, which has for a long time been secretly forcing the pace in nuclear missile weapons development and production. Therefore Northeast Asia, naturally including the Korean peninsula, can be reliably rid of nuclear weapons only if Japan conscientiously joins the nonnuclear process.

The Russian Society for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation With the DPRK, like all the Korean people's real friends, energetically supports all sides' efforts toward nuclear regulation on the Korean peninsula and expresses its confidence that they will end in success.

TV Series Profiles Intelligence Agents

LD1503111694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1615 GMT on 28 February carries a 30-minute documentary entitled "Being a Foreigner." This is the first installment of a three-part documentary series on Soviet intelligence agents working abroad. Part one is labelled "Line N."

The program begins with an interview with G. M. Nechiporenko, a former KGB colonel, who spoke about his 40-year career in intelligence work. He says that in the Soviet era, illegal intelligence activities were called "Line N," and the methods used were always the same, that all intelligence operatives carried out the tasks given to them by "the state machine."

The program next shows the shadowy figure of a man seen in profile, speaking in accented Russian about his career. A caption on his image says that former Soviet intelligence agents were filmed for this program.

The documentary next gives some historical background on Soviet intelligence operatives employed under Stalin, and gives the histories of several, including Rudolf Abel, who worked in the United States, a man with the pseudonym "Ben", who spied on the British nuclear submarine program, and "Sam" and "Julietta", a married couple working abroad.

Yuriy Drozdov, a major-general in the KGB and the former head of illegal intelligence, is interviewed next. He discusses the types of people who worked for him, and he says that one person was "even a foreign ambassador in another foreign state." Next there is a clip from an interview with George Blake, who is captioned as a "former agent for British, then Soviet intelligence." Later, there is a profile of Pavel Sudoplatov, who was the former head of the KGB's Fourth Directorate in charge of sabotage.

The next section of the documentary concerns the assassination of Trotskiy by the First Main Directorate of the NKVD, the former Soviet intelligence organization. This is followed by Colonel Nechiporenko talking about his work in Leipzig, and he claims that the KGB would use Leipzig as a ford for getting spies into the West, and that Germany was used as a training ground. This is followed by Abel, "Sam," and "Julietta" discussing their history and their methods of tradecraft.

At 1605 GMT on 9 March, Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian shows part two of the "Being a Foreigner" documentary series. This 30-minute part is called "Born in the Cemetery."

At the start of this program, KGB Colonel Gleb Nechiporenko speaks about the need to provide a spy with a complete false background identity including date of birth, place of birth, schooling, education, marriage, relatives, etc. This information is gleaned from old newspapers, library records, and gravestones. The narrator then goes on to mention briefly the false identities used by various Soviet illegals. Abel used the identity of the American Emile Goldfus; "Ben" used the identity of a Canadian Gordon Lonsdale; Peter Kroger obtained his identity in a New Zealand cemetery; "Sam" and "Julietta" changed their places of residence and birthplaces several times. Only the mysterious (?Ramzay), the code name for Richard Sorge, was born in the actual place where he claimed to be.

Next, there are brief interviews with Boris Gudza, a former counter-intelligence agent, Major-General Mikhail Ivanov, and KGB Maj.-Gen. Yuriy Popov who recall the case of the Soviet illegal Richard Sorge. Footage shown of decoded messages to the Red Army from Richard Sorge signed "Ramzay". Sorge had been trusted by the Germans despite the fact that he did not conceal that he was born in Baku and had worked for the Comintern. Nor was Sorge suspected by the Japanese, since he was working for their fascist ally. The operation involving Richard Sorge's work as an illegal had been carefully planned in advance, including the fact that his name had not been changed.

Brief screen interviews follow with Mikhail Fedorov, "Sam", and Galina Fedorova, "Julietta", who claim that their activity is not immoral. Next, Gleb Nechiporenko's younger brother, Oleg Nechiporenko, who is also an intelligence operative, is profiled. The narrator says that he was once regarded by the CIA as one of the best KGB operatives in South America. The narrator also says that shortly before the assassination of President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Soviet Embassy and sought permission to leave Mexico for the USSR and that Oleg was one of the last diplomats to see Oswald. Historical information on Oswald is presented.

To conclude the second part of the series, several KGB officials discuss tradecraft, especially false documentation.

The third and final part of the documentary series "Being a Foreigner" is broadcast by Moscow Russian Television in Russian at 1615 GMT on 11 March. This 30-minute part is entitled "After the Legend."

To open, a pipe-smoking figure shown in profile says that simple things like the way one cooks are used to convince people that you are the nationality you claim to be as an illegal. He adds that it is a very rare thing for people to speak a foreign language without some kind of accent. Gleb Nechiporenko then is shown, and he displays various airport stamps used in forging documents. He shows examples of various airport stamps and a forged GDR passport visa. He is shown practicing the forgery of a signature.

Nechiporenko says the intelligence services were engaged in the aftermath of the 1956 events in Hungary. Throughout the world footage and photographs of those events by Western journalists were studied closely to bring culprits to book. Nechiporenko denies any idea that this was an improper task for intelligence services to be engaged on.

The documentary then returns to the subject of tradecraft. This includes brief interviews with the Fedorovs, "Sam" and "Julietta". It then shows that Gleb Nechiporenko served as a vice consul in London, where he was also worked in intelligence. His tasks could

include purchasing several English hats, for instance, for use by illegals. Asked what kind of person he would want to send to Britain to work as an illegal, Nechiporenko said he would not send someone to pose as an Englishman. That would be too risky. He would send someone with excellent English but whose accent would not be suspect. For instance he could be a person with an American passport hailing from Latin America, for whom a slight accent would be natural.

Next, further historical background is given on the case of Rudolf Abel. Pavel Sudoplatov is shown in a cemetery viewing Rudolf Abel's gravestone, which also bears his other name "Vilyam Genrikhovich Fisher". Evelina Fisher, Rudolf Abel's daughter, is briefly interviewed.

KGB Maj.-Gen. Yuriy Popov explains that illegals were dispatched to America during the fifties to be there in case there should be a war. KGB Maj.-Gen. Yuriy Drozdov, who was formerly the head of illegal intelligence, recalls how Abel was betrayed and arrested. Next, Western footage of various arrested Soviet illegals, including Klaus Fuchs, is shown. Evelina Fisher, Abel's daughter, says that her father considered a long absence when he was recalled to the Soviet Union in 1955 as one of the reasons for his downfall. He regarded a second return to America as dangerous in itself. Sudoplatov says that the mistake was that Abel returned to his studio for money. The 1962 exchange of Abel for Gary Powers in Germany is then discussed. Drozdov recalls how the actual exchange took place. Afterwards, exchanges were handled differently, and footage shows the Krogers boarding an aircraft. One big difference with this exchange was in the publicity given in the West and East. The Krogers's departure was extensively covered in the West, but no photographers were around to cover their arrival in Moscow. Greville Wynne's arrival by air in the West was widely publicized, but the arrival of Lonsdale, or Molody, as he was also known, went unpublicized in Moscow.

The next part of the documentary deals with how the technology has changed, but the tasks remain the same. Gleb and Oleg Nechiporenko speak about hidden weapon caches. The narrator recalls the details of the Lonsdale spy case in which Houghton and others passed on top secret British naval data to "Ben", otherwise known as Lonsdale and Molody. KGB Colonel Yuriy Mostinskiy explains that after the return home of ex-illegals, attention is paid to their spiritual welfare and efforts are made to make use of the knowledge they have of the opponents' counterintelligence methods. The narrator says that very often these illegals pay a high price for being engaged in their work. Sorge was hanged, and others have undergone lengthy terms of imprisonment. The documentary concludes with the narrator saying that despite this, none of them have regretted their work as illegals.

Political Issues

Rutskoy Calls For Restoration of Soviet Union

LD1603094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916
GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Former Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, in a statement sent to ITAR-TASS on the eve of the third anniversary of March 17, 1991, referendum, during which most citizens voted for the preservation of the Soviet Union, has called for the recreation of the erstwhile unity of the former Soviet Union but warned this is impossible to do through bloodshed.

"Only through indomitable will and fortitude of the fraternal peoples and a desire to live together, we shall be able to attain the cherished goal or we shall get lost one by one," the statement said.

Rutskoy believes that over the past three years "the reality itself proved that the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) is non-viable" and that "the people have come to realise in full the price of the irresponsible and light-minded decision to dismantle the Soviet Union".

At the same time the former vice-president is convinced it is impossible to prevent the country "from slipping down into an abyss through meetings, demonstrations and irresponsible statements that border on a political provocation".

Rutskoy considers it necessary to comprehend this and look for more effective forms for rapprochement and cooperation in an atmosphere of an intensifying disintegration, economic, social and political crisis. He did not specify what forms he had in mind.

Yeltsin Seen Gaining From Release of Amnestied Foes

PM1603093394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Feliks Babitskiy report under "Situation" rubric: "To Each Opponent—a Political Double"]

[Text] Two weeks have now passed since the declaration of the sensational February amnesty, but the disputes surrounding the question of who needed it and why have still not died down. Most likely several political intrigues have clashed here, and their resultant force, so to speak, has apparently not satisfied anyone.

First of all, the desire of the Duma leadership to demonstrate its independence of the president to the whole world and primarily to itself is completely obvious. No less obvious is the worry of certain parliamentarians that the possible trial of the "October prisoners" may stir up the electorate's interest in them on the eve of the presidential elections. On the other hand, unlike Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy, Anpilov and Rutskoy were never professionals in

political terms. And therefore, having been pardoned opportunely by the charity (and, clearly, it is only the powers that be that can be charitable) of these people, and having discovered their previous natural niche already filled, they would be forced, according to the cunning reckonings of the parliamentarians, to quietly and ingloriously leave big-time politics. This danger was obvious even from the Lefortovo cell from which Rutskoy, according to rumors, had told his supporters in the Duma not to even hint at any amnesty.

However, the events following the amnesty have shown that even Boris Yeltsin is not at all inclined to oppose it. Thus, the leaders of the "Russia's Choice" movement, who include many first-class lawyers and legislators with experience of working in the previous Union and Russian parliaments, have found a great multitude of contraventions of existing legislation in the document adopted by the Duma. It would, apparently, be as easy as anything to suspend its effect and lodge a complaint in the Constitutional Court.... But nothing of the sort has happened. On the contrary, the executive has done all it can to ensure that the legislature's decision is irreversible.

Is not the whole point that the president too has been able to come out of this with something?

Once again this cannot be ruled out. Even the "Yabloko" faction has condemned the amnesty, arguing that by discontinuing the criminal proceedings against the defenders of the "White House" the parliament is thus removing responsibility from the opposing side, whose stance during the October events did not appear to be irreproachable to everyone either.

And then, Boris Nikolayevich could easily count on the fact that each of his opponents will obtain a political double and, instead of opposing him, would be forced to prove to the voter his own self-identity. After all, it is no secret that at the December elections Zyuganov got into the parliament by inheriting Anpilov's electorate, and Zhirinovskiy—Rutskoy's. However, it now turns out that they were written off too early, and they are now demanding back again what is theirs.

I think that this state of affairs suits the president. After all, it is no secret to anyone today that there are no legal obstacles to holding extraordinary presidential elections. And so the only thing that can really avert them is a split in the anti-Yeltsin camp.

Gaydar, Khramov Qualify Support for Civil Accord

PM1603103794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Untitled comments by Yegor Gaydar of "Russia's Choice" and Sergey Khramov of Association of Socialist Trade Unions under "Opinions" rubric]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar:

We certainly favor accord if it really is a question of civil accord. In this we do, of course, support the idea voiced

by the president [of a memorandum on civil peace and accord]. The crux of the matter, in my view, consists in just one thing. If the memorandum is adopted in order to comply with it, if forces prepared to sign it agree to assume responsibility for the political conduct of their supporters, for their compliance with order, and for their rejection of propaganda of violence, of course we are in favor, but if this is another fig leaf designed to cover up activity aimed at destabilizing the situation in Russia, fanning social strife, and provoking public disorders and to cover up the increasing pressure on the authorities and the increasing discrediting of the institutions of Russian statehood, we will not participate in such a sly game.

Sergey Khramov:

The idea of social peace is a very good idea, particularly as the trade unions cannot work under other conditions, and they more than anyone need stability and peace. But any agreement presupposes obligations: Who gives what and who receives what, otherwise the contract will not work. Unfortunately, we now place very great emphasis on the purely political aspects, and the economy is regarded only as one aspect of politics. Meanwhile, labor relations should not be underestimated as a very influential factor in politics. But it now turns out that we are introducing market relations into production, while manpower is being sold and bought according to the old, nonmarket rules. This is why there is such a large gap between wages and prices and why there is social tension. The free trade unions would like to introduce market relations also into the sphere of labor relations. In our view, the memorandum must indicate specific obligations and specify liability for violations of them. We are prepared to sign such an agreement. In addition, we will uphold the trade unions' right to strike, only not as a weapon to pressure the authorities and the government, but as a working instrument for resolving disagreements between hired workers and employers.

'Moderate Opposition' Favors Stability Accord

PM1503170394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report of statement by Vladimir Lysenko: "Moderate Opposition Interested in Stability, State Duma Deputy Vladimir Lysenko Believes"]

[Text] The recent Kremlin meeting shows that the president would really like to sign a memorandum of agreement, but how effective would such a document be? I recall that throughout the course of last year we had several "roundtables" and some very important documents on agreement were signed, but they have not been carried out and have had no substantive impact on the political situation. Today there is little correlation between the authorities and society's political forces. All the changes to the power structures have no connection with the situation in parliament, with the positions held by political parties, or with the demands of the trade unions. That is why the opposition undoubtedly has an

interest in fundamentally resolving the question of power—that is, winning the 1996 elections. And, in this sense, a moderate and calm opposition could have an interest in some kinds of consensual documents so as to buy time and prevent radicals on both flanks from destabilizing the situation in the country.

Significance of 'Memorandum of Accord' Assessed

PM1503183394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Do Not Spill the Cup of Accord.... Signature to Memorandum—Society Will Finally See Who Is Interested in a Political Breathing Space, Who Does Not Want To Reach Agreement, and Who Violates the Accords"]

[Text] President Yeltsin had a meeting in the Kremlin with representatives of parties, political movements, the parliament, and the government on the subject of preparing a draft memorandum on civil peace and accord. An idea that arose as a result of the emotional events of late February and early March connected with the political amnesty has thus begun to acquire organizational dimensions. Boris Yeltsin believes the draft document may be ready in two weeks.

We would remind you that the package of amnesty documents which the State Duma adopted 23 February included the "Memorandum of Accord," which spoke of the need to exclude violence from political life. However, statements by one body—even one as prestigious as the State Duma—are patently not enough to secure civil peace. Accord presupposes agreement among all parties to the political process—the authorities, the social forces and their leaders, who should probably also encompass those people who today more than anything generate suspicions regarding the intention to or possibility of destabilizing the country's political life. That was why the president started off the process of preparing the memorandum, which is designed to be the means of maintaining tranquillity. The plan is for the document to be signed by as many political parties and movements as possible.

However, can a document—even such a reputable and representative document—prevent the country slipping into chaos? Hardly. A memorandum is not a law, it is a political statement of intent. Everything depends on whether the country's leading political and social forces with influence among the masses really intend to do everything they can to maintain civil peace, or whether for some people this is nothing more than a tactical maneuver. Whether people who disagree with the reform course, as well as its supporters, are really prepared to use constitutional and legal means and methods alone in their political campaigning. And, last, whether politicians are ready to renounce for a while quite legal but "drastic" and therefore dangerous methods (rallies, demonstrations, strikes) that may capsize the ship of state.

In order to ensure that the memorandum does not become just another piece of paper without any real

force, I believe that these intentions should be announced in public before the agreement is signed—after they have been seriously and thoroughly discussed by all structures in society. Signatures to the memorandum will only mean something once these signatures are backed up not just by leaders' personal aspirations but the clearly expressed will of political and social groups large and small. Definite steps and statements on the part of the president and the government would probably also not be superfluous to the achievement of trust: Stability in society does not only depend on political leaders' activeness but also on the actions taken by the authorities, their readiness to heed public opinion, take a calm view of dissent, and cooperate constructively with all social structures.

Needless to say, no one will provide absolute guarantees that, first, all significant forces involved in the political process will want to subscribe to the memorandum and, second, that even if they do sign, they will not breach the agreement. But even in that case the idea of a memorandum has one plus going for it—its visibility [naglyadnost].

A social contract primarily means the redistribution of responsibility. Social structures voluntarily assume some of the duties of maintaining social peace in the common interest. But that does not mean that the state authority can thus shift its responsibility onto society's shoulders. The memorandum on civil peace and accord may indicate to the authorities whether they are capable, in conditions of a political breathing space, of creating a material base for real and not just "agreed" political stability—primarily to stabilize the economy, curb crime, and limit bureaucratic tyranny. Society is getting a chance to test not only the strength of its own influence but also the real strength of the authorities—the extent of its competence, political will, reformist potential, and responsibility to the country's citizens.

Moscow Mayor Not To Run for President

PM1603095594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS reports: "He Will Not Run for President"]

[Text] "I do not intend to run for the post of the country's president even if I am asked." That was the position voiced by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

Yuriy Luzhkov denied the press' numerous claims that he created the Party of the Majority for his future election campaign. "I have nothing to do with it except for the fact that at the request of one of my friends I signed greetings to the constituent congress of the Party of the Majority since its aim—supporting the establishment of a class of entrepreneurs—does not contradict my views," our interlocutor explained.

Zhirinovskiy Says Party Favors Economic Stability

LD1503135594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By S. Sokolova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] met with leaders of Russian and foreign banks in the Parliamentary Center today. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the party, emphasized that the Liberal Democrats today are in favor of economic stability in Russia and the development of private entrepreneurship, and that they will put through parliament a number of laws that will help Russian banks to work normally. He also reported that the country is now entering a new stage of political construction, and if the communists are allowed to come to power Russia could plunge into ruin, that is, there would be no healthy capitalism and private banks. Yet if the rudder passes to Russia's Choice, all Russian money will rapidly go to the West.

After some eulogistic speeches were made about his party, Zhirinovskiy complained about the government, which in their opinion has still not collected the taxes for 1993 and has not confirmed in the State Duma the budget for 1994.

Zhirinovskiy Seeks Financial Aid From Bankers

MK1603104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Mikhail Leontyev report under the "Bluff" rubric with general heading: "Zhirinovskiy Solves His Nonpayment Problem. A Bankrupt Meets Bankers"]

[Text] Yesterday, Mr. Zhirinovskiy, who had attempted during his spectacular election campaign to pay with false pay-sheets and "slush-fund cash" for the air time accorded to him, tried to persuade Russian bankers at his faction's meeting to finance his future election campaign (or maybe also his previous one in view of his obvious bankruptcy).

Representatives of 80 banks were invited to attend the meeting together with members of the Russian and Moscow governments, revenue services, and so forth. According to SEGODNYA's information, neither the top chiefs nor representatives of any reputable banks were seen at the meeting. A large number of Russian and particularly foreign journalists were present as usual. Generally speaking, as practice has shown, Zhirinovskiy is much better consumed on the foreign market than on the domestic one.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] could not please the bankers with its traditional buffoonery at the meeting: When you ask for money, you have to behave appropriately. Zhirinovskiy simply said that banks should help the LDPR because it is precisely this party that guarantees stability in the country. "I want to give a signal from our party so that you could correctly assess the situation and help us financially." LDPR representatives explained that they are not fascists but simple patriots, and that they will prevent the fascists from coming to power.

It turned out that the LDPR stands for the Chinese model, a stance evidently meant to give Zhirinovskiy a certain air of respectability a la Mr. Volskiy.

Getting down to business, Zhirinovskiy told the audience that a total of 22 trillion rubles [R] is sitting idly in Russian banks. He did not ask "to give him all the profits," he just suggested that they share with him 1 percent of the amount. That is, the bankrupt lays claim to a meager R220 billion.

During the meeting, LDPR members wondered about the behavior by chiefs of GMM [a foreign bank implicated in possible LDPR election misconduct], who, in their view, "do not realize their own advantage" as they stubbornly deny that they had financed Zhirinovskiy. LDPR speakers said that the company's ability to finance "the most stable party" should have been its best advertisement.

As a matter of fact, earlier Zhirinovskiy had time to meet with Richard Nixon, former U.S. president, behind closed doors at the Balchug-Kempinsky hotel, where the American guest is staying. Zhirinovskiy conveyed through Mr. Nixon his message to the incumbent U.S. President and his autographed two books. Let us hope that the former president is wise enough not to hand this trash over to Mr. Clinton.

To all appearances, Zhirinovskiy will get no serious money from mentally sound bankers. Evidently, the claimant himself has also realized that. Upon ending the meeting, he told the journalists that 21 September of last year may recur one of these days. "All characteristics are present, symptoms are evident; papers, documents are ready, troops have long been brought in for street clashes." Evidently, a difficult time has set in for Zhirinovskiy's party. The only thing that could save it is yet more bloody turmoil that the Nazi leader is trying his best to foment.

Communist Party To Investigate Oct Events

LD1503201594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921
GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The plenum of the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Communist Party (led by Gennadiy Zyuganov) has decided to establish a public commission to investigate the events in Moscow on October 3-4, 1993.

It was pointed out that after the State Duma's resolution on political amnesty, the parliamentary commission for investigations into these events had been dissolved. According to the Communist activists, this lets those responsible for the bloodshed avoid punishment.

The Communist Party's plenum also addressed the Russian government with an open statement expressing concern over "unprecedented destruction of Russian agriculture."

The statement emphasized that the current government's policy was making Russian agriculture insolvent since it was supporting foreign farmers. Communist Party activists believe that the issue must be discussed urgently before the

situation gets out of control. This could trigger off unpredictable consequences, the statement said.

The plenum adopted the party's draft program "From Crisis to Sustained Development." The program states that Russia must finally become a state with a socialist economy established after the nationalization of private property.

The Communists stressed that a regime of personal presidential power had been set up in Russia after the new constitution had been adopted by a minority of the population. The Communist program considers it to be a "juridical and political confirmation of dictatorship by corrupted capital."

The program of the Communist Party is to be submitted for consideration at the party's third congress this autumn.

Zyuganov Views Communist Party's Action Program

LD1503174594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624
GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Russia's Communist Party does not want to confine itself to purely parliamentary activities, but intends to adopt a programme of concrete actions in various direction for the next couple of years.

This programme of action, together with the theses of the party's detailed programme, was submitted on Tuesday for the consideration of a plenary meeting of the Communist Party's Central Executive Committee. Addressing the meeting with a report, party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov noted that all the previous hypothetical programmes just described the communists' intentions in case of their coming to power. In contrast to them, now the party should develop a plan of concrete actions. "We are to formulate our tasks exactly as an opposition force", Zyuganov added.

The communist leader expounded on the principal ideas to form the basis of the proposed programme of action. Remaining in opposition to the political and economic course followed by the Russian president and government, the Communist Party plans to make its contribution to the process of achieving civic peace and accord. However, Zyuganov said, civic peace does not mean universal fraternization. Struggle between various social trends is inevitable, but it should not destroy the state, he stressed. To prevent this, a broad coalition should be formed. "The political spectrum of such a coalition may prove quite extensive and range from communists and socialists through nationalist patriotic movements to centrists and true democrats", the leader specified.

Zyuganov recalled the conditions that the parliament's communist faction considers necessary to achieve civic peace. They provide for an immediate turnabout on the current social and economic line, formation of "a government of national confidence resting on parliamentary majority" (which "calls for removal from the government of such people as Kozyrev, Chubays and others"), immediate payoff of debts to peasants and of delayed

wages to workers, urgent measures to fight corruption and organized crime, as well as "restoration of a renewed union state on a voluntary basis at Russia's initiative".

According to the communist leader, the strategic goal at the current stage is to expand the opposition footing, to build on this basis a large-scale bloc of forces and to push it to power by parliamentary means. Early presidential elections (without Boris Yeltsin's participation) would be the best variant, Zyuganov believes.

The party leader expressed regret over increasing political inertness in Russia and urged party members to prepare "quietly and pragmatically" for a new upsurge in social activities. The Communist Party's primary organizations, whose age and social composition "is not in line with the spirit of the times", should work for "rejuvenation of the party" and "stop stewing in their own juice". Zyuganov called to put into practice "the small steps theory": to set up standing election committees, to participate in public organizations, above all in trade-unions, to step up propaganda activities and so forth.

The short-term programme of action is expected to be adopted at the Communist Party's conference in April, while the detailed strategic programme is to be passed at the 3rd party congress scheduled for this autumn.

Zyuganov Views Yeltsin, Amnesty, U.S. Ties

BR1603123794 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian
18 Mar 94 p 93

[Interview with Russian Communist Party Secretary Gennadiy Zyuganov by Mauro De Bonis in Moscow; date not given: "Trust Me, I Will Be Your Brezhnev"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [De Bonis] Mr. Zyuganov, are you happy about the amnesty that freed Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, and others who took part in the confrontation between Parliament and Yeltsin last October?

[Zyuganov] The amnesty decreed by the Duma is the victory of reason. However, we must not forget that it is only a first step in the right direction. The second step is to remove from power the incompetent people that are selling off our country.

[De Bonis] Will this amnesty benefit Yeltsin or the opposition?

[Zyuganov] It will be to everyone's advantage. However, the radical democrats do not want to understand this, and the mass media continues to utter hysterical cries and predict that there will be a bloody clash. I assume that they have still not assessed the political importance of what has happened, but it would be better for them to think this over well.

[De Bonis] Immediately after the liberation of the prisoners there was talk of civil war.

[Zyuganov] If there is going to be a civil war, Europe will experience terrible hours. Rather, it would be a catastrophe for the entire planet. The Russian ship must travel in calm waters if it wants to berth in a good port.

[De Bonis] Let us talk about the economy a little. President Yeltsin has abandoned his shock therapy policy. Was this the victory of the people over the reformers?

[Zyuganov] It was the victory of sound thinking over those who tried to destroy Russia. You cannot talk of reforms when the state is falling apart, when half of the factories are not working, when the aged are being humiliated, when culture, the economy, and the moral foundations of our population are being destroyed. Europe will soon realize what the destructive process has brought and what it itself contributed by supporting first Gorbachev and then Yeltsin.

[De Bonis] Who is responsible?

[Zyuganov] The real author of this policy is the IMF, whose development models were imposed upon Russia as has already happened in Latin America. For the IMF bosses it is a matter of transforming the economy of a country into an economic space to be exploited to its own advantage, and the results to date are: in Yugoslavia their models have led to a ferocious war, in Czechoslovakia the country has been divided into two, in Poland industrial production has fallen by 40 percent.

[De Bonis] What are the objectives of the Russian Communists?

[Zyuganov] Our objective is to change the course of the shock therapy into a normal evolutionary development of reforms, and to work to bring about a new growth in culture, science, and health. Moreover, it will be necessary to take the appropriate measures to protect the elderly and children. To put a moral brake on the pornography that is rampant in the country and to stop the spreading Americanization, primarily through television.

[De Bonis] Are you still against the Americans? It seems that President Clinton looks favorably on a strong Communist Party in Russia.

[Zyuganov] We have nothing against the Americans. They have had to take note that there has been a new political situation in Russia since 12 December and they know well that continuing to support the shock therapy would have led to disorder at the international level. For this reason I now prefer a policy of stability. I can no longer support just Russia's Choice (the party close to Yeltsin). More support to Yeltsin could lead to the spread of anti-Americanism, as was the case with Gorbachev. A situation very similar to the "Cold War" situation. We do not want this kind of relationship with the Americans.

Shakhray on Restoration of Russian Germans' Autonomy*LD1603010994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar—The process of the restoration of the autonomy of the Germans in Russia is only possible through a mass movement "from below" in the places where they live in large numbers, thinks Sergey Shakhray, Russian Federation minister for nationalities and regional policy. He declared this today at a press conference. Sergey Shakhray called such a movement "the concept of the self-organization of the Russian Germans."

In his view, Germans living in our country must, first of all, decide for themselves on how to restore their autonomy, liaising with the organs of power in the regions where they live in large numbers. Only then, he pointed out, will there be a real possibility of passing a federal law to that effect.

Sergey Shakhray also informed journalists about his recent trip to Bonn, where he attended the fifth sitting of the Russo-German intergovernmental commission on the problems of the Russian Germans. According to the minister, the Russian side confirmed its opinion that the Russian Germans can and must remain in the Russian Federation. The rights of the Russian Germans, repressed in 1941, must be restored.

At the sitting of the commission, the minister noted, there was discussion of the problems involved in financing the restoration of the Russian Germans' autonomy. At present, there is no coordination of the sides in this matter, since the Germans do not trust our state organizations and pass their part of the funds allocated to the implementation of the program through private intermediary structures. There are cases of the squandering and "disappearance without trace" of the German part of the funds.

But now, Sergey Shakhray stressed, the sides have agreed that, in order to prevent such a situation arising, a special Russian-German foundation and, at the local level, Russian-German societies will monitor the distribution of funds at federal level.

'Breaking Up the FCS' Option for Reorganization*PM1503191194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1*

["Own Information" report: "A Day In the Life of the Secret Services: Fiery Hearts Will Set Ministry of Justice Aflame"]

[Text] It was announced by a well-informed staffer of the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] central apparatus that the possibility of breaking up the FCS and transferring its functions to other structures is being studied in the president's administration as one of the options for reorganizing this department. Specifically, it is

proposed to transfer the FCS Counterintelligence Operations Directorate to the Ministry of Justice, transforming it into a Federal Bureau of Investigations. The Economic Counterintelligence Directorate and the Directorate for Guaranteeing Security at Strategically Important Industrial Facilities would be rendered subordinate to the Ministry of the Economy, while military counterintelligence would be placed under the wings of the General Staff as an autonomous directorate. The fight against terrorism will switch to the competence of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The author of the plan for eliminating the FCS is a member of the Security Council.

Our correspondent met with new FCS Chief Sergey Stepashin and asked him to explain his future plans at this post. The FCS chief reported that very soon he will hold a meeting with the Russian president. He did not deny reports that Boris Yeltsin has been in receipt of suggestions for reorganizing this service, including transferring its powers to other departments. "If these suggestions are implemented, the security organs will be dealt a major blow. I am categorically against this, and I am against anybody who puts such suggestions forward. It is necessary to ponder why they are doing this. I am deeply convinced that Russia and the president need strong secret services. And it is this stance which I will be defending at the meeting with Yeltsin," Stepashin declared.

Spokesman Denies FCS Director's Illness*LD1503175994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] A senior source at Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) [FCS] has denied media reports that FSK Director Sergey Stepashin went into hospital after meeting President Boris Yeltsin on March 11.

"Our life is full of rumors," Aleksandr Mikhailov, head of the FSK Public Relations Center, told Interfax on Tuesday. "In this particular case an elegant form was found to make gossip sound official, with some kind of source being cited 'who asked not to be identified.'"

"Yes, Stepashin did have a meeting on March 11, but with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and not with the president," Mikhailov continued. "Neither that meeting nor [Stepashin's] telephone conversation with Yeltsin could have given the FSK director any cause for concern. Mood is not always a reason to see a doctor anyway."

Mikhailov said Stepashin was currently at work.

Media Issues**Official Warns TV, Radio Broadcast Cuts 'Possible'***LD1603133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 16 Mar 94*

[Text] In the near term the amount of TV and radio broadcasting will not be reduced as it was on February

10, "however, in general such an action is quite possible," Chairman of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Telecommunications Workers Anatoly Nazeikin declared to INTERFAX on Wednesday while commenting on related TV stories.

He also reported that since the beginning of this year analogical problems appeared among telecommunications employees who only now received payment for last year's debts for broadcasting of state TV and radio programs. In addition, agreements with TV and radio companies have not been concluded yet because the quantity of broadcasting to be done is as yet unknown.

Nazeikin underlined that the issues concerning mutual payments between collectives of broadcasting centers and TV and radio companies were to be solved in the course of the meeting between representatives of telecommunications workers and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin scheduled "for the near term." However, this meeting has not taken place. If this continues till the end of March, Nazeikin continued, we shall be forced to cut back TV and radio broadcasting time for the majority of Russia's regions. (On February 10 broadcasting was limited in 61 regions—INTERFAX).

Rostelekom Refuses Radio, TV Companies Orders

LD1503182594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] At the beginning of this month the All-Russia Television and Radio Company was given notice by Mr. Belov, general director of the Rostelekom joint-stock company, that the acceptance and processing of orders for the provision of intercity and international television and sound broadcasting channels would be suspended from 15 March.

This means that Russian television and radio are unable to have good-quality and stable communications with their correspondents in any of the regions of our country. The management of the Russian Television and Radio Company has held intensive talks with Russian Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak, who gave the assurance that there would be no disconnection from communications channels.

Today, however, the Rostelekom joint-stock company refused to accept and deal with orders from television and radio companies, citing a directive from the joint-stock company's management. All attempts today to talk to the Russian communications minister have been unsuccessful, although, according to our information, he had received information about the desperate plight in which radio and television find themselves yet again.

It seems that today the language of the ultimatum is the only way in which Russian communications workers can voice their interests.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Adviser Opposes Economic State of Emergency

LD1603103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—Aleksandr Livshits, leader of a group of experts to the president of Russia, is against the passage of bills on an economic state of emergency and on the restoration of administrative mechanisms of management, including a wage freeze.

In a statement received by ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [16 March], Livshits admits that "the Federal Assembly, of course, has the right to determine legislative work priorities". However, Livshits, dr. of science (economics), is of the opinion that "the Russian economy is now in need of a legislative basis for a market economy, not a state of emergency which would not resolve a single deep-seated problem".

Livshits also points out that "the government, basing itself on the presidential message to the Federal Assembly, must energetically implement its programme and monitor the situation. The government should not be pulled about and rendered panicky," he emphasises.

The presidential message determines a reform strategy and basic guidelines for domestic and foreign policies. "No such thing as an economic state of emergency is spelled out there," the presidential adviser noted.

"The president makes active efforts in a quest for national concord. Any actions of the Federal Assembly in this respect will find understanding and support. But concord does not mean a renunciation of reform or a rollback to unjustified emergency measures," Livshits stressed.

Yerin Unveils R2 Trillion Crime Fighting Program

MK1603102094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Aleksandr Barinov report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Two Trillion for Fighting Crime"]

[Text] A federal crime fighting program for 1994 and 1995 has been formed and a presidential edict for its approval is now in the works. This was announced by Viktor Yerin, head of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, at a scheduled news briefing there yesterday. According to the minister, this program has been elaborated on Boris Yeltsin's personal instructions with all Russian ministries and agencies taking part in putting it together. In Mr. Yerin's words, it has a fundamentally new nature, and it is not going to end up in mid-air, as has happened more than once. The program is to be financed mainly by ministries and agencies (with virtually all taking part in it), each taking care of its own

sphere. All in all nearly 2 trillion rubles at current prices would be required to implement it.

President's, Premier's Stance on Late Wages Differ

PM1503171794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Igor Petrov report: "If You're Not Paid, Sue. President Defends Citizens' Labor Rights"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin signed an edict 10 March which, in the opinion of many observers, could fundamentally change the situation regarding now-familiar wage payment delays.

The edict "On Responsibility for Violations of Citizens' Labor Rights" instructs the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office to "carry out careful checks into every instance of the violation of workers' legitimate rights" and to institute proceedings against those responsible for holding up payments.

The courts have been instructed to pay particular attention, when hearing cases of the violation of labor legislation, to the need to eradicate such violations, including in respect of delayed pay.

The government has been instructed to submit proposals to the State Duma within one month on amendments and additions to existing criminal and administrative legislation, "envisaging the strengthening and clarification of responsibility for the violation of labor legislation and collective contracts and agreements."

I do not think there is any need to explain what prompted the appearance of the president's edict, and the effect on society's social and political health of the nonpayment of two-three months' wages is also probably clear to everyone.

Of course, delays in paying wages are a natural manifestation of an even more dangerous disease. Nonpayments, like rust, affect the entire economic mechanism. The failure to pay bills has become not only not dangerous but even economically advantageous. Inflation eats away at the creditor's funds, reducing the borrower's debt. The banks rapidly recycle funds received from enterprises, earning fabulous rates of interest.

But maybe enterprises really do not have the money to pay each other? Unfortunately, this is by no means always the case. According to Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, enterprises hold 22 trillion rubles [R] in accounts at commercial banks. They also hold foreign exchange equivalent to R26 trillion. Add to this around \$18-22 billion held abroad, and the sum is gigantic. And yet the government is getting just one demand from all over—give us money.

To a certain extent this ardor may be dampened by Viktor Chernomyrdin's statement to the extended Council of Ministers. He stressed that it is time for creditors themselves to learn how to recover their debts through the courts without hoping for another round of mutual debt offsetting. "Those who do not have the

money to pay their debts should go into bankruptcy and be responsible with their own property for the damage they have done," the premier said.

Economic Ills Facing Fuel, Energy Complex Viewed

LD1503165994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—Some 16,000,000,000,000 rubles worth of consumer debt to the Russian fuel and energy complex was registered in early February as compared to 12,000,000,000,000 rubles on January 1, 1994. This debt is half of all non-payments in the Russian economy.

Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told parliament hearings on non-payments today that the fuel and energy situation is most complicated and fraught with grave consequences for both the complex and the whole economy.

A reason for this is insufficient circulating assets of enterprises, imperfection of the legislation and low financial discipline of consumers, said Shafranik.

In his opinion, it is necessary to adopt a decree on regulated payments for fuel and energy in order to ensure severe sanctions against the non-payers and their priority payments for the supplies. Off-setting of mutual obligations of the budget and fuel and energy enterprises, as well as the transfer of the 2,500,000,000,000 ruble debt of Commonwealth states to the complex's account will help settle the problem as well.

Experts believe 1,500,000,000,000 rubles worth of allocations and off-setting of mutual debts worth 5,000,000,000,000 rubles would be enough to remove financial tension in the fuel and energy complex.

Military & Space Issues

Grachev Outlines Economic Problems in Armed Forces

LD1603130494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev held a news conference today. He said that a critical situation has arisen as regards financing the Armed Forces. Thus, in January of this year, the Defense Ministry received only 63 percent of the planned appropriations. Pavel Grachev stated that if in the very near future the situation does not improve there cannot be any question of any reforming of the Army or of maintaining its high combat effectiveness. He said that this year the Army would in real terms be cut by 200,000 men instead of the scheduled 400,000. The reason for this is that it is more

expensive to discharge an officer than to keep him—each officer being discharged needs to be simultaneously paid 20 monthly wages. This year purchases of armaments will be considerably reduced. This could have a deplorable effect on the defense industry enterprises and the development of new military technologies. Pavel Grachev strongly criticized the way trade in Russian arms is being conducted: He believes that opportunities to earn billions of rubles are being missed.

The journalists also inquired how the Army would react to a possible increase in social tension in the country. Grachev said that the armed forces are outside politics, but would not permit a civil war.

Soskovets Speaks on Defense Budget Problems

PM1503155394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "Oleg Soskovets Is Opposed to Further Reducing the Defense Budget"]

[Text] The news conference which Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, held Monday inaugurates a series of meetings between members of the government and journalists.

Among the problems facing the Cabinet of Ministers today Oleg Soskovets named "the state's participation in the country's economic development, the improvement of tax policy, the elimination of nonpayments, and the social thrust of reforms." The government is particularly concerned at the situation in the social sphere, in agriculture, and in the military-industrial complex. According to Soskovets, a complex situation is taking shape in the military-industrial complex today. Economic ties between enterprises have been ruptured by ill-considered conversion, and in some places the defense industry's scientific and production potential has been seriously undermined.

A further reduction in the defense budget could lead to the total stoppage of production facilities working for the needs of defense. Reducing expenditure on the Armed Forces means "freezing" the further course of reforms and of structural restructuring in the Russian Army. As Oleg Soskovets said, the government is drawing up measures to encourage production in the sphere of the military-industrial complex. In particular, conditions are being created for emerging onto the foreign market and expanding the defense industry's export potential.

As regards the state budget as a whole for 1994, in Oleg Soskovets' opinion the revenue part has not been worked out here. For example, the planned revenue from privatization has been understated. But the budget will be finalized in the government as early as this week, and the document will be submitted to the State Duma committees. At present the budget deficit stands at 9.9 percent.

The government is concerned at the social stratification of society, which is unprecedented on the scale of

modern civilized countries, when approximately 30 percent of the population is living below the poverty line, while the incomes of another section of Russians are growing inordinately. At the same time commercial activity is most lucrative, as distinct from activity in the sphere of physical production.

Soskovets on Readiness to Trade Defensive Weapons

LD1403150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Mar—The Russian Federation has the most up-to-date defensive weapons systems, it is willing to trade with them, and weapons made in Russia can ensure the security and sovereignty of any state. Such are the remarks made by Oleg Soskovets, a first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, on the pages of an issue of the VOYENNY PARNAD journal issued here.

Viktor Glukhikh, the chairman of the state committee for defense sectors, analyzes the state of Russia's military-industrial sector. He notes, in particular, that the volume of production of arms and military equipment in Russia in 1993 was only 47.8 percent of the 1991 level. Over that period, the production of aircraft and helicopters dropped by a factor of 3.8, armored tank equipment by over four-fifths, ammunition by a factor of 4.5, and military production in the electronics industry by a factor of 5.4. The main reason for the drop in the pace of military production is the lack of financing. At the end of 1993, the state owed the military industry about one trillion rubles for already manufactured products.

Shaposhnikov Assesses State of Defense Industries

LD1503170394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the president's representative in the Razoruzheniye (Disarmament) state owned company (and former commander of the joint CIS forces), told Interfax that if Russia's defense industries continue to be neglected as they are now, a political party could be set up which would lobby for the industries. This idea was advanced at a recent conference of the industries.

Shaposhnikov did not object to cuts in military spending but said that "the principles of sufficient reason as well as reasonable sufficiency" had to be observed.

In his view, the proposed cut (to less than one fifth of the 1993 figure) of spending for military contracts might harm the scientific and industrial potential of the country.

Shaposhnikov thought that the rocketry, air force and other services using high technologies could be the worst hit.

In a more intelligent approach, Shaposhnikov thought, "the number of design boards and factories specializing in development and manufacture of the same products" could be cut. This kind of competition would make it possible to preserve and consolidate the most efficient producers while less fortunate competitors could turn to other activities, probably for peaceful purposes.

The defense industries must have better guidelines, he thought. Four specific state programs had to be adopted, of weapons production, reduction and utilization of non-promising production lines, conversion to peaceful uses and weapons export.

"Even though I am with a mediator organization engaged in sales of weapons, I don't think it fair that military hardware producers cannot participate in exporting their products. They must have the right of direct access to the world market so as to enable them to use part of their proceeds for their immediate needs and increase the national budget revenue by paying taxes," Shaposhnikov said.

Defense Sector Representatives Gather

PM1503174994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Valeriy Baberdin and Aleksandr Yegorov report under "Postscriptum: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Requiem for Defense Industry"]

[Text] A gathering of leaders of defense enterprises, economists, trade union figures, and representatives of labor collective councils took place in Moscow last Saturday. They discussed the seriousness of the situation which has taken shape in the defense industry and adopted an appeal to the government in connection with the draft state budget for 1994. The tangle of problems here seems already to have exceeded its critical mass.

As is known, the first state budget drafting stage ended with the government adopting a "compromise" version. It is already clear, however, that this "compromise" will not bring appeasement but will merely increase the intensity of the struggle in parliament.

Many specialists doubt the possibility of keeping the budget deficit below 10 percent (61.5 trillion rubles [R]) and reducing the average monthly rate of inflation to 5-7 percent by the end of 1994. The reluctance to improve the tax system and the exhaustion of other sources of budget revenues are just a few of the reasons for this. This is why the drastic cutting of the expenditure part from R237 trillion to R182 trillion only appears to confirm the resoluteness of the government's aspirations but does not actually do so. Such a budget will hardly be implemented.

What, then, will happen? Sectors and regions that have adapted to the market will find nonbudgetary money and

will extricate themselves from the 1994 noose by redistributing financial resources. Only budget-funded organizations will be unable to do this—i.e., the defense enterprises again, for which the draft budget has prepared "tertiary conversion," which is certainly the last conversion and which they will not withstand.

It will clearly be impossible to fit the defense industry into "Trishka's coat," even if we were to call on the assistance of the most skilled masters. For it is impossible to finance the 5,000 research and development tasks currently under way with the present R3.5 trillion. Even if we cut all the longer-term tasks, leaving specific ones relating to new models of weapons (there are approximately 600 of these), this sum will suffice only for about 10 particularly important ones on whose completion the country's strategic security depends.

Together with the sum allocated to purchasing VVT [expansion unknown], the planned budget appropriations can provide approximately 300,000 people with work. (In the United States the military sector of the economy has 3 million employees.) This is tantamount to the defense industry's final degradation. As a result, the capacities left unloaded will, at best, be gradually "assimilated" into civilian industry or, most likely, will come to a halt altogether, and specialists estimate that approximately 15 million people will move from the sphere of physical production to the position of unemployed or partially unemployed people.

On behalf of the military-industrial complex enterprise leaders and the chairmen of trade unions and labor collective councils, A. Shulunov, president of the Defense Enterprises Assistance League, and A. Breusov, chairman of the Association of Trade Unions of Defense Sectors of Industry, put a proposal to the government to take immediate measures to ensure the efficiency of the credit-financial system, and to take control of structural transformations in industry by amending the present statute with the formation of financial-industrial groups. Within the very near future, the appeal states, it is necessary to approve Russia's defense program and adopt the Russian Federation Law "On Military Production," as well as a new version of the Law "On Conversion."

Military-Industrial Leaders Meet Kokoshin

PM1603134994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Yu. Konorov followed by editorial office note: "Defense Industry Has Stopped and Threatens To Go Out Onto the Street"]

[Text] The two first Saturdays of March have become truly "black" ones for specialists of the military-industrial complex. Perturbed at the draft state budget for 1994, which dooms the defense industry to definitive collapse, the leaders and members of the league for assisting defense enterprises held emergency conferences. There was reason to be perturbed: Whereas last year the budget provided 7.5 trillion rubles [R] for the army's needs, and allocated R6.5

trillion, this year instead of the necessary R84 trillion the government intends to give only R37 trillion. Some R4,478 billion will be needed to fulfill conversion programs, but not a kopek is being allocated.

That is why members of the government, to which those gathered in the Palace of Labor Great Hall appealed, were invited for 12 March. The planned reduction in defense expenditure means not only the complete stoppage of the majority of enterprises but also the birth of a 5 million-strong army of unemployed. The country will be deprived of its industrial potential and Russia's national security and future will be threatened.

Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin assured those assembled that the absence of representatives of the Russian Federation Government in the hall does not mean the government's disregard for the sector's needs. Recognizing some of the criticism heard as fair, Andrey Kokoshin noted that plenty of edicts and decrees have been adopted, the trouble is that there is no mechanism for their operation. In particular, there is permission for trading in arms but bureaucratic obstacles are cancelling out all the efforts of the defense industry leaders to extricate themselves from their debts.

The Russian Government has surrounded defense with excessive taxes, putting it on the edge of survival, while at the same time for reasons unknown to anyone and in accordance with inexplicable rules individual joint-stock companies and concerns receive benefits when being taxed.

The participants in the conference adopted the text of a decree including specific measures to normalize the situation in the sector. In particular it was suggested that Russia's defense program be approved as soon as possible and that the Russian Federation law "on military production" be adopted.

From the Editorial Office:

It has become known to the editorial office that after the appeal by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to the Russian president the head of state imposed a resolution instructing that the draft budget be revised. It seems expedient to create an independent commission which would control the entire mechanism of the fulfillment of edicts and decrees already in operation.

State Arms Sale Company To Be 'State Monopoly'

LD1403213394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Reform continues in the country. Today, the state company for the export and import of arms, Rosvooruzheniye [Russian Arms], held a presentation for journalists. The former USSR never traded in arms, but simply delivered them according to agreements. So there has only been trade proper since 1991. But in this sphere,

liberalization has led to a situation where dozens of Russian firms are tendering for contracts to supply India with artillery shells, all selling the product of the same factory. And the one who got the contract was the one who knocked down his price one and one-half times.

By setting up Rosvooruzheniye, the government has created a state monopoly on arms trading. But this does not mean that enterprises are deprived of the opportunity to be involved in foreign trade—simply that this is now done under the guidance of, or, to be more precise, while observing Rosvooruzheniye's price controls. One of the company's main activities will be investment of profits from promising research work—at present 3-5 percent of the value of a contract. It will also receive additional income, where the latter has been successful. The arms trade is a subtle business.

Company Profiled

MK1503120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Leonid Zavaritskiy report: "Rosvooruzheniye" Company Takes Off. Russian Arms Trade Centralized"]

[Text] The existence of a number of foreign economic structures involved in the sale of Russian arms has caused a fragmentation of Russia's efforts on the world arms market, has undermined the exporters' authority among the customers, and has somewhat disorganized government policy. This prompted last November the creation of a single government structure to export arms, ammunition, military equipment, and components—the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company. Presently the company is staging its presentation to mark the start of its international operations.

"The USSR and, later, Russia did not sell arms—they only supplied them to allies within the framework of the former political course," Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company, said at a press conference yesterday. He also stressed that the company entrusted to him "is not afraid of accusations of being a monopoly," because in the past two years attempts by a multitude of sellers to trade in arms have failed. Only a single state company, such as "Rosvooruzheniye," will be able to do so successfully.

The "Rosvooruzheniye" state arms and military hardware export and import company was set up 25 November of last year in accordance with the Russian president's edict No. 507 on the basis of the "Oboroneksport" foreign trade association, the "Spetsvneshtekhnika" foreign trade company, and the Main Administration for Cooperation, to act as their successor. Under presidential edicts, Viktor Samoylov was appointed the company's director, and Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov was named the president's representative on its board.

"Rosvooruzheniye's" entirely new objective is to invest private and government money into Russian military-industrial enterprises to create under contract weapons models that are most sought after on the world market. All

Russia's largest defense enterprises will continue to be involved in foreign economic activity, but they will act under contract with the company. Arms will be delivered to foreign buyers out of the excess reserves of military hardware stored at military-industrial enterprises; revenues from the sales will not be transferred to the budget as was the case formerly, but will be received by the producer (with a deduction of 3-5 percent commission fees to be kept by "Rosvooruzheniye"), who will pay taxes to the state. It is well known that formerly the state allocated arms sales revenues between enterprises at its discretion.

At the initial stage of "Rosvooruzheniye's" activity, its deals will be licensed by the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry; later the company itself will be authorized to do so. At present a special government decree and a new draft law on military-technical cooperation are being drawn up to set forth a new procedure for military exports. Tomorrow KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report the company's activity in greater detail.

Who's who in "Rosvooruzheniye"

General director—Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov (formerly Vladimir Shumeyko's military adviser)

First deputies:

Colonel Valeriy Tretyak (former consultant of the secretariat of the Russian Federation Interdepartmental Commission on Cooperation with Foreign Countries);

Captain 1st Rank Sergey Oslikovskiy (former first deputy chief of the "Oboroneksport" foreign trade association).

Deputies:

Colonel Pavel Trishin (former deputy chairman of the "Oboroneksport" foreign trade association);

Colonel Yuriy Andrianov (former deputy chairman of the "Spetsvneshtekhnika" foreign trade company);

Colonel Stanislav Filin (former deputy chairman of the "Oboroneksport" foreign trade association);

Aleksandr Lunkov (former general director of the Russian Financial Industrial Corporation).

Military Base Proposed as Cosmodrome Site

947Q0094A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
12 Mar 94 p 5

[Reports by IZVESTIYA correspondents Boris Reznik and Sergey Leskov under the heading: "If Svobodnyy-18 Becomes a New Baykonur, Every Stone at the Space Launch Site Will Be Worth More Than a Diamond"]

[Text] Boris Reznik, IZVESTIYA

Amur Oblast—This base was supposed to be very secret. Like many others, it had a number without any identifiable meaning added to its name—Svobodnyy-18. But almost everybody in Amur Oblast called it simply and

plainly the "rocket city." A mysterious and apparently very serious military unit was stationed here.

At the time of conversion and across-the-board cutbacks in the armed forces, the situation at Svobodnyy-18 became so bad that its troubles spilled far outside the bounds of the secret territory. This was no longer a "rocket bulwark of the motherland;" the servicemen who stayed suffered together with their families from poor food supply, inadequate heating in their homes, and other everyday problems.

Now the oblast has received the news that the government has instructed appropriate organizations to develop a project for the construction of a space launch site in the Russian Far East, and the base for the "Amur Baykonur" will be Svobodnyy-18. The base's facilities have already been transferred to the military space forces.

Head of the Amur Oblast administration Vladimir Polevanov confirmed a few days ago in a public address the seriousness of the government's intent to launch space vessels from the territory entrusted to him. As AMUR-SKAYA PRAVDA reported, the Amur governor took advantage of Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev's recent visit to the oblast to send two memoranda to Boris Yeltsin. In one, B. Polevanov invited the president to visit Amur Oblast, and in the other he asked the president on behalf of Amur Oblast residents to speed up the signing of the edict on the construction of a space launch site in the designated area. He even made a suggestion to Boris Nikolayevich on what to call the future facility: "Svobodnyy Russian Space Launch Center."

Meanwhile, oblast residents are not unanimous in accepting the need to build a space launch site here. A lot of concerns in this respect are being voiced by representatives of the "greens," environmental science specialists, State Duma deputies, and ordinary citizens. At their request Leonid Korotkov, a Russian parliament deputy from Amur Oblast, began with the help of experts a careful study of the current environmental situation in the area of all three space launch sites that existed on the territory of the former USSR. So far the information he has collected is extremely discouraging. The oblast public is waiting for detailed data on potential changes in the ecological situation in connection with the space launch site construction. Depending on the results, the president will be informed of the true reaction of Amur Oblast residents.

Sergey Leskov, IZVESTIYA

The idea of building a launch site equal to Baykonur has been discussed increasingly often lately. The reason is simple—Russia and Kazakhstan still cannot agree on mutually acceptable terms for utilizing the largest space complex in the world built in the Aral steppes.

As to construction of a space launch station in the area of Blagoveshchensk, where the disbanded rocket forces used to be stationed, the main argument in its favor is its geographic location. Although Svobodnyy-18 is located on a more northern latitude than Baykonur, it is still in

the southernmost region of the territory of Russia. Launch site proximity to the equator saves fuel in the process of putting the craft into orbit and in all countries is considered one of the most important factors in choosing a launch site. In confidential conversations officials note that the new launch site will open the way for Russia to enter the fast developing market of space services in Southeast Asia.

It is believed in the Russian Space Agency [RSA], however, that these pluses are offset by Amur Oblast's considerable distance from space infrastructure facilities. According to RSA Deputy General Director Boris Ostroumov, construction of a major space launch site in the Far East would be tantamount to building it out of diamonds. Given the paucity of the Russian space budget, a realistic approach, in the RSA's opinion, would be to preserve and maintain existing facilities. There is still hope of reaching an accommodation with Kazakhstan. On 10 March a Russian delegation, headed by RSA General Director Yuriy Koptev, left for another round of negotiations in Almaty. There are also technical capabilities for expanding the functions of the northern space launch site in Plesetsk, although each start from there requires 10-15 percent more fuel as compared to Baykonur. The extra costs would be greatest in launching heavy rockets of the Proton and Energiya type from Plesetsk.

At this point the question of building a space launch site in Amur Oblast is far from finalized. The initiative for this idea comes from the military, which for quite understandable reasons would like to continue utilizing the former rocket base. As of today there is only an instruction to study the technical proposal for construction of the space launch site, but definitely not a government order for the project design. The situation will possibly become clearer after 14 March, when a Ministry of Defense commission headed by Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov, head of the military space troops, will visit the site of the Svobodny-18 military base. The Ministry of Defense prefers not make any comment until it examines the facilities of the potential space launch site.

Official Denies New Cosmodrome Planned

LD1503172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404
GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] A senior official of the Russian Space Agency (RSA) in an interview with INTERFAX has described as groundless a recent statement by Commander of Military Space Forces (MSF) General Vladimir Ivanov about Moscow's plans to build a new cosmodrome (space center) in the Far East by the year 2000.

He said that building such a facility was not MSF's job but that of a special branch of the industry which is in Ukraine and elsewhere after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

On the prospect of a Far Eastern project, the RSA official said that although his agency had no objections, billions of

rubles would have to be raised to implement it by the year 2000, something that Moscow could not afford at the moment.

Work Aboard Mir Space Station Continues

LD1503164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311
GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Flight Control Centre (Moscow Region), March 15 (TASS)—The crew of the 15th main expedition continues its mission aboard the Mir space station.

The cosmonauts refuelled on March 14 the joint power pack of the station with an oxidizer from tanks of the progress M-21 ferry. They will refuel it with the second fuel component on Tuesday.

The programme for today also includes measurements of soft gamma radiation in near-earth space as well as technological experiments.

Work will continue under the international "Rentgen" programme for astrophysical explorations. Using telescopes of the orbital observatory at the "Kvant" module, the crew plans to investigate roentgen sources in the centre of our galaxy.

According to the results of medical checkups, Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachyov and Valeriy Polyakov are healthy and feel well.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Message on State Considered, Not Adopted

LD1603092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908
GMT 16 March 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin's message entitled "On the Strengthening of the Russian State" to the Federal Assembly is to be considered by the State Duma on Wednesday. A draft resolution, endorsed by the council of the State Duma, is to be presented at a plenary session.

The parliamentarians, while sharing the main provisions of the presidential message, emphasise that the major task of the State Duma is to provide "legislative support for the development of an integrated and stable democratic society" where the rights of the individual and citizen are respected, an effective economy functions, the principles of federal relations are consistently exercised, and the rights of nations and nationalities are assured.

Apart from considering a draft resolution, the Duma intends to review the enactment of its resolution "On a legal basis for elections to the state power bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation and local self-government bodies and on the ensurance of the electoral rights of citizens."

The deputies are also expected to consider a bill "on a procedure for the provision of military and civilian personnel of the Russian federation for participation in peace-keeping operations or in the restoration of international peace and security and other types of peacemaking activities".

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0915 GMT on 16 March adds the following: "The State Duma has again failed to adopt a resolution concerning its stand with regard to President Boris Yeltsin's message 'On the State of the Nation' after several days of discussion.

"In his message delivered at the end of February President Yeltsin called for a stronger Russian state."]

Isakov Seen Favoring Nomenklatura Rule

PM1503152194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Mar 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "First Attempt To Keep People Out of Presidential Elections Made in Duma"]

[Text] Addressing a plenary sitting of the State Duma on 11 March V. Isakov, chairman of the principal Duma committee, on legislation and judicial and legal reform, unexpectedly proposed a new way of electing the Russian president. Not by a nationwide vote, but by a kind of new Assembly of the Land, comprising the members of the Federation Council and representatives of the territories. V. Isakov's reasoning was that nationwide presidential elections would lead to the destabilization of the political situation in Russia and could split it into several warring camps. So, in his view, depriving voters of the only check on the supreme authority they have left following the adoption of the new Constitution—the right to elect the country's president once every four years—is a stabilizing factor.

It is worth noting that V. Isakov's proposal sounded as though it was supposed to develop the detailed report by Duma chairman I. Rybkin, the main theme of which was approximately as follows: The Duma is switching from political battles to productive lawmaking. The main grounds for this switch, it was indicated, is the prospect of achieving civil peace and accord in the country. In fact, support for the ideas put forward by the president in his message to parliament on the part of very diverse political forces represented in the Duma was all but the leitmotiv of the 11 March debate. In particular, representatives of the communists and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] voiced considerable approval, noting that B. Yeltsin's program coincided with their own party programs. Perhaps only "Russia's Choice" was critical of the ideas announced by the executive authority, thus ending up in a minority. But does this mean one can say that the evolution of the president's views, as recorded in his message to parliament and confirmed by the draft budget message, paves the way for the longed-for civil peace?

I. Rybkin immediately and publicly disavowed V. Isakov's statement, saying that he did it "off his own bat." But, knowing V. Isakov, as I do, from his activities in the old Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, it is hard to imagine that one of the most experienced parliamentary politicians would have gotten carried away suddenly and would have put forward for no particular reason ideas that grossly contradict the basic provisions of the Constitution.

The timing was very specific. The results of the vote on the question of the 23 February political amnesty convincingly demonstrated that the section of the Duma in opposition to the president had managed to form an overwhelming majority by winning over a number of centrist factions. According to the calculations of analytical group experts A. Sobyenin, E. Gelman, and O. Kayunov, this majority needs 20-25 votes to obtain a two-thirds advantage and the corresponding opportunity to adopt the constitutional decisions it needs. According to these experts, the political temperature in the State Duma today is similar to what it was at the seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. So there are grounds for saying that the opposition has succeeded in capturing the first planned position in its fight against the president and it is massing for an assault on the second position. This position was very clearly indicated by V. Isakov—the president as the "main source of destabilization."

Addressing his colleagues on Friday, the Duma speaker shared with them his idea of turning every Duma committee into a "miniparliament," in which all work on the preparation and discussion of draft laws is to be concentrated. All the voting on draft laws and other acts that have been prepared and agreed in advance is to be carried out at these sittings, without any debate.

The idea is not new and has been used with some success in world parliamentary practice. In Japan, for instance, or the United States, whence the Duma speaker returned on the eve of the sitting. Certainly, the new scheme for organizing lawmaking work, proposed by I. Rybkin, will make it possible to avoid the various excesses taking place at plenary sittings, which immediately become known to the general electorate and are not nice for the Duma. Indeed, it would save considerable time.

But, at the same time, all these obvious merits are relevant only to an established political system in which the rules of the game are clearly defined and are strictly observed by everyone. The gist of the rules is that the opinion of all political factions and groups in parliament will definitely be considered when draft laws are being devised. But in the case of the Russian Duma there is strong reason to believe that extensive discussion is probably being replaced by the diktat of committees in which, as a rule, one faction or another occupies key positions. At any rate, that was precisely the case in the old Russian Supreme Soviet, and the same trends are apparent in the Duma.

Among the key legislative acts in the Duma's drafting program three very important draft laws are to be devised (and effectively adopted, if I. Rybkin's proposed

drafting model is introduced) by the Committee on Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform headed by V. Isakov. They are draft laws on the Constitutional Court, on the elections to the State Duma, and on Russian presidential elections. In view of the very real possibility of the Duma democratic minority's being denied participation in the preparation of these draft laws and the opposition's possession of a virtual constitutional majority, the likelihood of the adoption of a Law on the Constitutional Court enabling the opposition to subject the president to an impeachment procedure or of a Law on Presidential Elections along the lines of that proposed by V. Isakov, should be regarded as very real.

It is hard to say right now to what extent nationwide presidential elections might destabilize the situation among ordinary Russian voters. But they are certainly destabilizing the situation among the central and regional bureaucracy. The Duma politicians on whom the nomenklatura is banking are themselves very well aware that none of them has any chance of winning the presidential race. So it is highly likely that a "dark horse" will breast the tape and cause really serious trouble for the political and nomenklatura elite both in the capital and in the provinces. It was for that very reason, presumably, that the proposal to keep the consideration of new presidential candidates and, accordingly, the membership of the new government "in the family" was made. To conduct the bargaining without witnesses and share out top state posts in accordance with the principle: You support our candidate for this post and we will support your candidate for that post. This is the only way the political forces behind V. Isakov will have a chance to get back into power in Russia. It is typical that in the corridors of the Duma V. Isakov expressed every confidence that his idea would meet with approval in the Federation Council.

So V. Isakov's statement looks more than anything like a trial balloon, launched in order to discover how far it is possible to go at the moment in the proposed direction, along the path leading, whether V. Isakov likes it or not, to the establishment of nomenklatura diktat in the country and creation of a state system over which citizens would have no control (in this respect I. Rybkin's proposal on dispensing with debates at Duma plenary sittings looks very logical).

As for the president's latest actions, for which he even won praise in some communist newspapers, it appears they merely facilitate the opposition's progress along this path, since they cause schism and confusion in the ranks of the democrats. But V. Isakov honestly and candidly gave to undersand that if B. Yeltsin were to declare himself tomorrow to be the sternest statist and loyalest Leninist he would still be the opposition's "number one target."

Defense Committee Chair on Legislative Aims
PM1403164194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Reserve Major General Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Russian Federal Assembly Committee

for Security and Defense Questions, by Aleksandr Pelts; date and place not given: "Petr Shirshov: Legislative Process Not Currently Keeping Pace With Life"]

[Text] Petr Petrovich Shirshov is a reserve major general. He was born in Orenburg in 1945. He graduated from Orenburg Higher Missile Defense Command School. He has had 12 postings during his service. The last one was in the city of Bryansk. In February 1994 he was elected chairman of the Committee for Security and Defense Questions of the Russian Federal Assembly's upper house.

[Pelts] Petr Petrovich, until recently you were a regular officer. Tell me, how do people become politicians? For what reasons did your general's uniform suddenly become "too tight"?

[Shirshov] My current position is in a certain sense a surprise to me personally, but at the same time it was thought out and, I would say, deliberate.

A deputy's work is something I am familiar with. When I was still serving I was a deputy at various levels. You probably know that at that time certain deputies' duties came, so to speak, "with the job." I mainly worked in committees and commissions on socialist legality, social protection for servicemen, and servicemen's problems.

These were the facts which obviously determined my future. In March 1990 (by that time I had already been twice elected a Bryansk City Soviet deputy) I was offered the chairmanship. I will say frankly that I had many doubts. I liked service life, things were not going badly.... In short, it is always difficult to change one's life. Especially as my chances of becoming a general would go out of the window if I took up this offer.

But at the last city session, at which the question of the city soviet chairman was being decided, all the candidates voted in my favor. So I headed Bryansk City Soviet and I carried out these duties right up until the soviets' disbandment. I wore only military uniform for a whole three years. Initially this surprised many people. Then my general's tunic stopped "hurting" people's eyes. Incidentally, I took it off on 4 October last year.

[Pelts] As a result of your election to the Federal Assembly's upper house your potential has increased considerably. As chairman of a key committee, what would you like to do first of all?

[Shirshin] Above all I want to stress that we are already engaged in practical work. The subcommittee on security is currently working on six draft laws which will be submitted to the house for discussion in the near future. In addition, organizational work is being completed—the committee is defining the scope of its activity, "settling in" in terms of personnel, and establishing the necessary contacts with other committees of both the upper and lower houses of the Federal Assembly.

What am I personally working on? Drafting a constitutional amendment on the use of the Armed Forces inside the country. I believe that it should be clearly written into our

constitution that the use of the Army in combat inside the state to resolve political questions is prohibited. It is still too early to talk about the final version of the text of this amendment, but the point, I think, is clear. The Army should be used to protect the state's interests and security only when there is a threat from outside. All internal problems must be solved by other power structures.

I am sure that I am not original in this conviction and, importantly, I am not alone. Most reasonable and judicious politicians have a similar viewpoint. Furthermore, servicemen themselves are openly stating this. I believe that the adoption of this amendment will be one of the first steps of our Committee To Implement the Right to Legislative Initiative.

[Pelts] You said that the committee's structural organization is being completed. But I have noticed that compared with other committees yours is virtually the smallest....

[Shirshov] You are right. As of today our committee has only 16 deputies. Is that a lot or not many? Here I would recall Aleksandr Suvorov's saying about winning not by weight of numbers but by skill. From this viewpoint I believe that the committee's composition is totally satisfactory. We have people capable of, so to speak, literally getting to grips with all the most important areas of work. For example, for the problems of the military-industrial complex (and this is a whole range of questions) we have Petr Vasilyevich Romanov. For questions on the Armed Forces we have Ruslan Sultanovich Aushev plus your obedient servant. What else? For intelligence, security, and counterintelligence we have my deputy, Petr Grigoryevich Premyak (a captain first rank, incidentally). In short, all the committee members are experienced, knowledgeable people who are professionals in their own field.

[Pelts] Petr Petrovich, currently much is being said about the need for a review of the package of "military laws" adopted by what was then the Russian Supreme Soviet. What is your attitude to this idea?

[Shirshov] The situation is changing, and views are changing too. There is nothing terrible about that. If some laws need a little more work, I am all for that. It is another matter if we are talking about reducing the rights reflected in the "military package" of laws. The legislative process is objectively not keeping pace with our current difficult life. I am convinced that people must not be put in an even more difficult position.

[Pelts] But the explanations of those who think otherwise are also logical. They say that there is simply no money to implement adopted laws....

[Shirshov] I agree, such a problem does exist. But here too we can and must find a solution. For example, the military budget again. I believe that it must be formulated with specific tasks in mind. This is the strategic approach. We all know that most important, priority areas exist in military-organizational development. That means financing for these areas must also be given priority. By financing everything en

masse we will inevitably "lose" investments in the most complex bureaucratic labyrinths.

[Pelts] Incidentally, many of our readers are reporting this problem. For example, funds for pay are apparently being allocated but the payee gets them only after a delay of several months. Do you intend to look into this?

[Shirshov] Undoubtedly. And in the very near future. I am convinced that in this situation the reasons for this phenomenon must be found without fail. It is due, I think, to an official who either did not make a timely decision or made it to the detriment of the same servicemen. I want to give my assurance that we will check up without fail on where the money is "going," why it is being held back, and who is possibly making a fortune from it.

[Pelts] How do you intend to collaborate with the State Duma's "defense" committee?

[Shirshin] Why "intend"? We are already collaborating. I recently met with Aleksandr Piskunov. We talked about many problems concerning our collaboration. In addition, in the future we are planning to consider many draft documents jointly. I am convinced that close contacts are useful both for working out a common viewpoint and for raising the quality and efficiency of our work.

Incidentally, I will add that we are interested in contacts with a group of Russian Defense Ministry experts and other power structures. Ideally I see a group of experts under our committee from all Armed Forces branches. But even this will not apparently be enough. Because our terms of reference include questions which simply cannot be tackled without careful and comprehensive expert study.

[Pelts] For example, such questions as the ratification of the recently signed treaty with Georgia....

[Shirshin] I do not propose to rush into final assessments. But in my view the interests of a whole group of territories were not studied fully during that visit. And, as we know, you cannot clap hands with only one hand. It is a very subtle and delicate problem. I will stress again that I am now expressing my personal viewpoint—before signing this "Big Treaty," as it is being called, Georgia should have resolved its own internal problems itself. Moreover, without our participation. But we will wait for the official reaction of both the upper and lower houses of the Federal Assembly. I think that these will come soon.

[Pelts] The last question is of a personal nature. What do you do with your spare time? What is your hobby?

[Shirshin] It is trite to repeat that I have virtually no spare time. But if I do get some, I enjoy fishing and hunting. I really love working on the land—I have my own six-hundredths of a hectare. True, I have no time to get out there. But generally I love nature. And I love work done by my own hands.

Duma Views Law on Economic State of Emergency

LD1503175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1656
GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Speaker of the State Duma (the lower house of parliament) Ivan Rybkin has reaffirmed a statement from his counterpart of the upper house Vladimir Shumeyko saying the two of them had discussed the possibility of adopting a law on a state of emergency in the country's economy on Tuesday.

In an interview with Interfax, he said Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was also involved in discussion about delays in adopting this year's budget. Rybkin said although the budget bill should have been discussed by the Duma in January, the government would table it only next week. "This means the Duma will be unable to approve a budget for the second quarter of this year", he said.

Rybkin said that three possible options of adopting the budget were discussed. One is a special law. Next, the suspension of some articles of the law on emergency measures. And finally, to go on as usual, in which case, he said "we will need at least two or three months to approve the budget which means a repeat of the situation of 1992-1993 when Russia had to survive without a budget".

However, Rybkin declined to say which of the three options was best. "Sometimes it seems that a short cut is the best solution. I do not know if that is true. The issue will come under discussion by the Duma Council today", he said.

Rybkin Denies Talks

LD1603094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839
GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS—State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin has denied media allegations that he had discussed the introduction of the economic state of emergency in the country with Russian officials.

"I have not had any discussions of this subject with anyone," Ivan Rybkin said at today's plenary meeting of the State Duma, responding to a question from one of the deputies.

Shakhray Against Lifting Ossetian State of Emergency

LD1403201994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746
GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies, Sergey Shakhray, stood against the lifting of the state of emergency in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict until the conflicting parties started negotiating. He said the lifting of the state of emergency could trigger off a new armed conflict and make necessary the introduction of

the armed forces in the region. Shakhray spoke during the closed parliamentary hearings in the Federation Council which discussed settlement of the inter-ethnic conflict. According to Shakhray, the state of emergency must be preserved, and does not demand significant expenses.

Shakhray told Interfax that the cost of financing the interim administration in the conflict zone during 1993 had been put at 23 Bn rubles. He stressed that the Ingush budget was subsidized by 97% and the North Ossetian one by 60%. Both republics explained the financing by the necessity to eliminate of the conflict's consequences. However, "not a single house has as yet been repaired," Shakhray said.

According to him, due to the current situation it was necessary to resort to economic pressure through use of the federal budget. This means that financial aid must be conditioned with the holding of negotiations between the conflicting parties. The central authorities must help with the negotiations and establish the needed guarantees, he emphasized.

Shakhray said that during the parliament's meeting he had received the impression that the North Ossetian and the Ingush presidents were ready to negotiate.

Shakhray: Local Government Basis of Stability

LD1503130094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114
GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—"Local self-government was described as "the basis of political stability of the state and social welfare of the population" by the leader of the PRES [Party of Unity and Accord] Duma faction Sergey Shakhray, who is also the federal minister of nationalities and regional policy.

Shakhray said in his speech in the State Duma's hearings about local government reform that 80 per cent of people's vital interests are realized at local level.

Shakhray said reform of local self-government would help bring closer together the taxpayer and the territorial bodies of power and thus reduce the influence of the central power on the inhabitants of regions, which, in turn, "will ease the tension of the struggle for power in the state as a whole".

In the course of reforms, three levels of state government will emerge: the federal level, the level of the component parts of the federation, and the level of local government, Shakhray said.

With this in view, the country needs a system of agreements among the component parts of the federation and bodies of local government on the division of powers and authority.

Shakhray stressed that the local governments must be granted the right to independently handle the necessary financial resources, which makes it expedient to reform the budget and tax system, because "the situation is absolutely

abnormal where two-thirds of Russia's component parts survive on subsidies from the centre", Shakhay said.

According to him, the reform of the budget and tax system must result in a rational distribution of the taxation base "within a normally functioning state," in which 20 per cent of all taxes will go to meet the federal needs, thirty per cent to meet the needs of the component parts of the Russian Federation and not less than fifty per cent of all tax revenue must remain at the local level.

Shakhay said the bodies of local self-government should have the inalienable right to dispose of municipal property and municipal land at their discretion as the guarantee of their economic independence.

Federation Council Approves 1994 Plan

LD1503161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 15 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 15 TASS—The Russian Parliament's Upper House, the Federation Council, approved at today's session a plan for legislative initiatives for the first six months of 1994. The plan provides for 19 bills to be drafted and submitted for the consideration of the state duma, the parliament's lower house.

The bills on the list include several draft laws worked out on the basis of provisions of the presidential message to the Federal Assembly. These are a draft law "On Russia's Free Economic Zones", "On Participation of Russian Military Contingents in Peacekeeping Missions, Including Within the CIS, CSCE and UN Framework", "On International Treaties of the Russian Federation", "On the Status of Foreigners in Russia, and "On Higher and Post-Graduate Professional Education".

The Federation Council also suggests drafting laws "on Federal Bodies of State Power", "On a Procedure for Implementation of the Federative Treaty and Delimitation of Powers", "Basic Principles of Legislation on Veterans", "On Federated Arrangement of the Russian Federation", and "On the Status of a Subject of the Russian Federation".

Addressing the gathering with a report, the House's First Deputy Speaker Ramazan Abdulatipov proposed setting up a scientific coordinating body to coordinate legislative activities by both chambers of the Russian Parliament.

The Federation Council passed a resolution saying it would resume discussing the plan of legislative initiatives after the state duma approved an analogous document.

Duma Vows To Speed Passage of Important Laws

MK1603113994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Ivan Rodin report under the "Authority" rubric: "Duma Assesses President's Message. It Promises To Pass Without Delay Laws of Top State Importance"]

[Text] The State Duma will adopt a decree today on where it stands on the president's message "On Strengthening the Russian State." The draft of the Duma decree was prepared by a working group under Valentin Kovalev (Russian Federation Communist Party), the chamber's deputy chairman. The document has been signed by representatives of all factions except Yabloko, as well as separately by Mr. Zhirinovskiy and Mr. Gaydar. The draft of this decree is a marriage—one upon which various Duma factions insisted—of a declaratory reaction and of a rather negative reaction.

The decree points out that the most important task facing the State Duma, which shares the main points of the president's message, is legislative support for "the Russian Federation's evolution toward the creation of an integral and stable democratic state where human and civil rights are honored, where an efficient economy functions, where the principles of federative relations are consistently realized, and the rights of big and small nations are upheld." The draft decree suggests that the government evolve a plan of measures to overcome the socioeconomic crisis. As for Duma activity in the realm of draft laws, it is supposed to give priority to draft laws dealing with stabilization of the economy, finances, and protection for the country's commodity producers.

The State Duma thinks it necessary to set up conciliation working groups of representatives of the president's staff, the government, and the Federal Assembly in order to "minimize the time consumed in the procedure of agreeing on the top state priority draft laws, and promises to consider them without delay. The last point of the draft decree proposes that the president and the government should settle the nonpayment crisis and eliminate delays in the payment of wages.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Edict Suspends Nenets Referendum

PM1503163794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 94 First Edition p 4

[Edict No. 463 of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Decree of the Head of Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug" dated 11 March 1994, the Kremlin, Moscow and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In view of the fact that the implementation of decree no. 69 of the head of the administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug of 15 February 1994 violates the provisions of Article 66 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation with regard to the coordination of questions pertaining to changing the status of the components of the Russian Federation and in accordance with part two of Article 85 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, I resolve:

To suspend decree no. 69 of Yu.V. Komarovskiy, head of the administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug,

of 15 February 1994 "On Holding a Nationwide Vote on the Nenets Autonomous Okrug's Direct Membership of the Russian Federation."

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation.

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow.

11 March 1994.

Edict No. 463

Nomenklatura Win Feared in Altay Elections

PM1603102594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Mar 94 First Edition p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "First Results"]

[Excerpts] Elections to representative state power bodies within the Council of the Federation were held in five regions of Russia on Sunday. They were declared valid in the majority of districts. According to preliminary figures, sufficient numbers of voters went to the polls in 35 of the 47 districts in the Chuvash Republic.

The elections were declared valid in 34 out of 50 districts in Altay.

In Khabarovsk Kray, the corresponding figure is 23 out of 25 districts.

In Kostroma Oblast, elections were validated in 14 out of 15 oblasts.

In the Jewish Autonomous Oblast the figure is 11 out of 15 districts.

The Central Electoral Commission announced that more precise figures will be known tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Altay Kray

The experience of having government members become deputies and switch to work in the State Duma without leaving their government posts is evidently going to be repeated in Altay. By far, the greatest number of candidates for the Kray legislative assembly registered here were administration heads or directors. According to legal experts, if the elections end in their favor the principle of the division of powers expounded in the Constitution will thereby be violated. After all, the job of the majority of contenders for the kray legislative assembly is to resolve economic problems, while the functions of the representative power consist of adopting laws and monitoring administration activity, whereas administration heads and leaders of all ranks involved in the executive structures are going to start adopting laws, so to speak, "to suit themselves." It is not difficult to guess where this could lead. [passage omitted]

Tatarstan Elections to Federal Assembly Viewed

LD1503164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Ilgiz Khairullin, vice premier of Tataria [Tatarstan], a republic incorporated in Russia, said in Kazan Tuesday that 58.5 percent of the eligible voters went to the booths to vote in March 13 elections to the Russian Federal Assembly. He added that the elections were held in all towns and districts of the republic.

Tataria's President Mintimer Shaimiyev won 91.2 percent of the valid votes and the republic's parliament speaker Farid Mukhametshin, 74.1 percent. Shaimiyev won more votes than when he had been elected president. The two men were elected to the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament.

Gennady Yegorov, chairman of the Almetyevsk town council, Vladimir Altukhov, director of a small business, Gabdulvakhit Bagautdinov, director of an orphanage, Oleg Morozov, a columnist now residing in Moscow, and Valentin Mikhailov, an activist of the People's Power movement, were elected to the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament.

Khairullin said that the advocates of full independence had failed in their attempts to hamper elections and the voting had passed smoothly throughout the republic.

CCP Head Foresees 'All-out War' in North Caucasus

LD1503162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tension is mounting in the North Caucasus, Musa Shanibov, president of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples (CCP) told INTERFAX. In his view, local conflicts could grow into an all-out war throughout that region.

Shanibov feared that a Kabardino-Balkarian problem might emerge on top of the Abkhazian, Ossetian-Ingush, Chechen and Ossetian-Georgian troubles. He accused Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's chief of staff, of having inspired the decree on steps to rehabilitate the Balkarian people issued by Valeriy Kokov, the president of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (KBR). The decree called for reinstatement of two Balkarian districts that had been abolished in 1944. Shanibov felt that the decree might revive KBR's territorial claims on parts of Northern Ossetia and the Stavropol Territory.

On the other hand, Shanibov believed that those who did not want war and supported Abkhazia and the CCP to an extent were gaining influence in the Russian leadership.

He said that the CCP intended to establish contacts with the West and international organizations with a view to obtaining their aid in resolving the North Caucasian problems.

Paper on Local Election Scene Around Country
PM1503154594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in
Russian 15 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed roundup of election results: "Elections to the Federal Assembly and Local Organs of Power Have Been Held in Russian Regions"]

[Excerpts] Kazan—More than half of the adult population voted in the repeat elections to the Federal Assembly. The elections went ahead despite various rumors and propaganda by extreme nationalists against participation in the vote. According to preliminary information, the voters of Almet'yevskiy and Nizhnekamskiy electoral okrugs demonstrated the greatest turnout—over 59 percent of those entered on the lists.

Speaking on republic television last Friday, Mintimer Shaymiyev stated that the situation has changed sharply since the day of the previous elections to the Russian parliament, in which only 13.8 percent of the republic's adult population participated. "Russia and Tatarstan have concluded an interstate treaty which has been approved by the people," he stressed. "And the republic must have its representatives in the Russian parliament." [passage omitted]

Barnaul—The elections to the Kray Legislative Assembly and the organs of local self-government in Altay went ahead. According to the preliminary results, 36.8 percent of voters entered on the lists took part in the vote.

Novgorod—The election campaign for elections to the Novgorod Oblast Duma, which will be held 27 March, has entered its decisive phase. A total of 143 candidates contending for 27 seats are making haste to announce themselves on television screens, on local radio, and in the newspapers.

Novosibirsk—Only around 40 percent of voters intend to take part in the elections scheduled for 27 March to the Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet of Deputies, as polls have shown. The advancement of candidates, which has now ended, was also characterized by a drop in the former activeness. Only two candidates were registered in almost one-third of okrugs, mainly in rural areas. The activeness was greater in city okrugs. [passage omitted]

Samara Oblast Head To Set Up Independent Government

LD1503144594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in
Russian 0900 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The head of Samara oblast administration, Konstantin Titov, has announced his intention to set up an oblast government answerable to himself alone. The prime minister has already been appointed - 56-year old Yuriy Logoydo, former deputy head of administration and chairman of the committee for the consumer market. The head of administration gave as grounds for his decision to set up a government the need to enhance the oblast's status,

which he said had in many respects sunk to second place in the country after Moscow, RIA reports.

Kalmykia's Ilyumzhinov Urges Autonomy Be Jettisoned

MK1603105094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in
Russian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev, Aleksandr Goncharov: "Kalmykia Wants To Be a Guberniya. The President Is Tired of Being a President"]

[Excerpts] Kalmykia President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who has repeatedly scandalized the Russian public with his unconventional steps, has once again come to the attention of politicians and the press. Addressing Kalmykian parliamentarians, he proposed that they abrogate the republican constitution and lower Kalmykia's status to that of a kray or an oblast. Against the backdrop of habitual demands by Federation components about greater autonomy, the Kalmykian president's proposal for the voluntary return "under Moscow's heel" sounds sensational. If it is adopted by the deputies, the Great Steppe Code, the draft of which the president submitted yesterday to the parliament for consideration, may become Kalmykia's fundamental law. [passage omitted]

The Kalmykian president's new political move is apparently the strongest one in his entire political career—both according to the effect it produced and its possible consequences. At a time when Chechnya is stubbornly chanting independence mantras, Tatarstan is relishing its special status, and a number of other Federation components are dreaming of repeating Kazan's success, many advocates of a "soft" federation appear to see Ilyumzhinov's initiative as a subversive action by "Moscow agents." This is how it seems to have been received by the Federation Council; Mr. Ilyumzhinov says that he has already had telephone calls from the Council wondering if this step had been agreed on with Yeltsin. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, however, in a conversation with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent flatly denied the suggestion about the alleged preliminary agreement with the federal authorities. In his view, the republican status impedes, not facilitates, close cooperation with the center. Federal ministries are reluctant to embark on joint projects with republics for fear of unpredictable steps, "even a cessation."

Observers do not doubt that the parliament will approve the president's proposal. In this event, the future of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov himself so far remains uncertain, but it is evident that upon losing the status of president he may acquire something more valuable: the laurels of a pioneer paving the way for Russia's return to a guberniya-based structure, something for which certain politicians in Moscow have been calling for a long time.

Shumeyko Visits Baltiysk, Sails on Destroyer
PM1603094594 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Petr Karapetyan under "Postscriptum: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Vladimir Shumeyko's 'Military Day' in Kaliningrad. Patronage Is a Good Thing, But It Is More Useful To 'Be Friends' With the Army Every Day"]

[Text] The "military program" of the two-day working tour of Kaliningrad Oblast by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly, was packed: On the morning of 10 March he put to sea for four hours on board the destroyer *Nastoychivyy*, and after dinner tactical exercises at the marines' training center lasted until late in the evening. At a rally marking the *Nastoychivyy*'s return to Baltiysk, Vladimir Shumeyko voiced satisfaction with the seamen's training and announced that the Federation Council is assuming patronage of the destroyer.

According to the seamen, before Shumeyko, none of the politicians of his rank who had visited Kaliningrad Oblast had devoted so much time to the social problems of servicemen. These problems are quite acute: The oblast accounts for 11 percent of the total number of Russian Army servicemen without apartments, and approximately 8,000 Baltic Fleet officers and warrant officers are without housing. The local administration is repaying its housing debts to servicemen only slowly and unwillingly. Last year the Kaliningrad authorities "gave up" only one apartment. At the same time the oblast's construction capacities are not great, and all hope is pinned on the Lithuanian firm of "Selma." Vladas Laurinavicius, its leader, is well known in Kaliningrad. Under a contract he has pledged to erect the "Severnny-2" residential district over the next two years.

This means precisely 4,300 apartments. To all appearances, the Lithuanians will complete construction ahead of schedule but will not, alas, remove the acuteness of the problem.

Of course, patronage of a destroyer, cruiser, or regiment is a good thing, but the way out undoubtedly consists in a clear-cut, comprehensively considered social program for servicemen in Kaliningrad Oblast. The need for this can also be felt, however, in other parts of Russia.

Gromov Inspects Sea-Worthiness of Northern Fleet
LD1503203594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's Chief Navy Commander Admiral Felix Gromov on Tuesday arrived in northern Russia to examine the combat readiness and seaworthiness of the Northern Fleet's warships as well as the state of discipline and accident prevention.

On the same day, Gromov put to sea on board anti-submarine ship Admiral Kharlamov to test the crew's combat skills, a navy spokesman told Interfax.

In the meantime, his deputy Admiral Igor Kasatonov in an interview with Interfax described the fleet as being Russia's most powerful naval group both operationally and strategically. In his words, it is the Northern Fleet which has most of the country's nuclear-powered submarines carrying nuclear missiles. The admiral said the Fleet was securing Russia's strategic interests in that direction.

On the night of the four Russian fleets, Kasatonov said that by far the strongest of them all were the Northern and Pacific Fleets, both of them ocean-going. By contrast, the Baltic and Black Sea Fleets are responsible for carrying out regional tasks, he said.

International Affairs

Estonian President Meri Arrives on Official Visit

WS1503205694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Several minutes ago, Estonian President Lennart Meri arrived in Ukraine on an official visit. The signing of joint documents—agreements on cooperation in science and technology and a visa-free regime, as well as a protocol on consultations between the Defense Ministries of both countries—is expected.

Oil Pipeline Construction Agreement Reached

WS1503131894 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1551 GMT 14 Mar 94

["Ukraine and Turkey Reach an Agreement on Pipeline Construction To Pump Petroleum From Middle East to Europe"—UKRINFORM headline; from the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 11 7-13 Mar 94]

[Text] The project will allow to merge Ukraine's pipeline infrastructure with the one, which Turkey is developing on its territory, to make up the following scheme for transporting Middle East petroleum to Europe: Turkey's pipe-line—and oil transshipment terminal—sea—the Odessa transshipment terminal—Ukraine's pipe-line to Europe.

The project equally meets Turkey's and Ukraine's interests, as allowing both nations to maximally diversify their petroleum supply sources, and boost their prestige and economic influence on the European continent.

Considering the project's political and economic significance Presidents Kravchuk of Ukraine and Demirel of Turkey gave it the green light at its early drafting stage and pledged their personal support for it.

The merger project and its Turkish construction part were drafted by the Kiev-based Yugnipronfteprovod research institute. According to its experts, the project's pipe-line tracing, number of ramifications may be increased or altered, depending on the number of parties, which might be interested in its implementation. As tentative estimates suggest, the original version may cost 2,750 million U.S. dollars.

The existent and under construction facilities of the transshipment terminal nearby Odessa (the Yuzhny port), which are supposed to be able to handle 40 million tons of petroleum a year, will allow Ukraine to not only fully meet its domestic petroleum requirements, including those of its oil refineries, but also pipe large amounts of crude petroleum to nations in East, Central and West Europe, which are, same as Ukraine, dependent on Russian fuel exports.

Thus, this major alternative petroleum supply source is expected to lessen Ukraine's dependence on Russia both economically and politically.

On March 11 President Kravchuk met in Kiev with Vetad Birlik, Turkish President Demirel's personal envoy and C.E.O. of the Birkan firm.

The Turkish official stressed the Turkish pipe-line project's significance, while discussing bilateral business relations between the two Pontic nations, as well the importance of the two national pipe-line systems' merger.

As Mr. Berlik disclosed, negotiations are underway aimed at establishment of a Ukrainian-Turkish joint venture, which will undertake the major pipe-line construction project. According to Mr. Berlik, the Turkish party intends to maximally rely on the Ukrainian experts' experience in laying pipe-lines (Ukrainian research and construction institutions used to take part in pipe-line construction across the former USSR and in many foreign countries).

In January, 1994 a Ukrainian delegation met with Turkish President Demirel, and a tentative agreement was reached on cooperation and the President's personal support for the project.

As Mr. Berlik further disclosed, Turkey has concluded an agreement with Iraq on future petroleum supplies for piping petroleum, extracted in the Middle East, to Ukraine and other nations in Europe. Eventually, other oil extracting nations may join the project, primarily Iran, as petroleum exporters.

As the project's architects believe, their brainchild may attract many OPEC nations by its much simpler route for oil piping, in particular, those of them, who cannot reach an agreement among themselves, with European oil producers and with Russia on export quotas, all of which, taken together, may greatly contribute to the trend to lower petroleum prices on the petroleum and petroleum products.

Ukraine Defense Minister Visits Bucharest

LD1503214294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2123 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest, 15 Mar TASS—Ukraine plans to have friendly relations with Romania and settle all problems in a political way, Ukrainian Defence Minister Army General Vitaliy Radetsky said today upon his arrival in Bucharest with a Ukrainian military delegation at the invitation of the Romanian defence minister.

The visit to last till 17 March includes negotiations with Romanian Defence Minister Gheorghe Tinca, head of the Romanian Armed Forces General Staff Lieutenant-General Dumitru Cioflina and meetings with President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu.

The sides are expected to sign a military cooperation agreement.

"We had long planned to sign a bilateral accord on military cooperation, especially as we have a border running over 600 kilometers (375 miles) with Romania," said the Ukrainian official. "The agreement will help military interaction, including joint training of personnel."

National Affairs

Kravchuk Decree Cancels Crimean President's Poll

LD1503215794 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 15 Mar 94

["Text" of decree by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on cancellation of Crimean poll]

[Text] We have just received a decree by the president of Ukraine, which is titled: On the Decree of the President of the Republic of Crimea, Dated 10 March 1994, on Conducting a Poll of Citizens of the Republic of Crimea on 27 March 1994. The decree states that the president of the Crimean Republic adopted, on 10 March 1994, Decree No. 05 on conducting a poll of citizens of the Republic of Crimea on 27 March 1994 on issues of renewing the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, dated 6 May 1992, that determined the regulation of mutual relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of a treaty, and agreements and renewing the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, dated 6 May 1992, which declared the right of citizens of the Republic of Crimea to dual citizenship. The mentioned provisions of the decree of the president of the Republic of Crimea contravene Ukraine's Constitution and the law of Ukraine on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums.

The president of the Republic of Crimea has virtually made a decision to hold a [words indistinct] poll of citizens of a consultative referendum under the guise of a poll of citizens that is being conducted only in order to ascertain public opinion that is specified by Article 47 of the law of Ukraine on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums. According to the legislation of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, the results of such a referendum are to be considered, and must be taken into account when decisions are made by relevant state bodies.

Such a conclusion is based, first of all, on the preamble of the decree. In it, the president of the Republic of Crimea noted firstly, that in adopting the decision he is relying on the principle of sovereignty of the people, [narodovladdya] in accordance with which the single source of state power of the Republic of Crimea are the people; secondly, the aim of the decree is to take into account more fully the will of the citizens of the Republic of Crimea when deciding important state issues; thirdly, it is guided by Article 2 and 34 of the Constitution of the

Republic of Crimea where it speaks about the implementation of state power by the people and its participation in managing the affairs of society and state.

(?In accordance with) Article 46 of the Ukrainian law on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums, the manifestation of the will of citizens when deciding important issues of a general state and local significance is a consultative poll of citizens through a consultative referendum. According to Points 1 and 2 of Article 2 of the decree, citizens of the Republic of Crimea are recommended to reply to a question on the constitutional bases of mutual relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine, and the rights of citizens of the Republic of Crimea to dual citizenship, that is to say, to questions that are exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, [according to] Articles 31 Points 2 and 15, and Article 97 of Ukraine's Constitution that are, therefore, subject to an all-Ukrainian referendum according to Article Three of the Ukrainian law on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums.

In accordance with Article 6-1 of the Ukrainian law on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums, the holding of referendums on issues that are not under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Crimea is not permitted. An adoption, a change, or a cancellation of a decision on issues that have been referred to the jurisdiction of the Republic of Crimea by Ukrainian legislation may be the subject of a republican and local referendums in the Republic of Crimea (Article 3-1 of the Ukrainian law on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums). In addition, it must be taken into account that the provisions of Article 9 and Part 2 of Article 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in the version dated 6 May 1992, whose renewal has been touched upon in the decree of the president of the Republic of Crimea, were changed by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea on 25 September 1992, insofar as they did not conform to the Constitution of Ukraine.

In addition, the fact that certain provisions of the decree of the president of the Republic of Crimea do not conform to Crimean legislation is also mentioned in a resolution from the Central Electoral Commission on the election of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, dated 12 March 1994, concerning the aforementioned decree. Proceeding from this, and in accordance with Point 7-2 of Article 114-5 of the Constitution of Ukraine, I resolve:

1. To cancel Points 1 and 2 of Article 2 of the decree of the president of the Republic of Crimea dated 10 March 1994 No. 05 on conducting a poll of citizens of the Republic of Crimea on 27 March 1994, insofar as it does not conform with the Constitution of Ukraine and the law of Ukraine on an all-Ukrainian and local referendums;
2. The decree acquires validity from the date of signing.

Crimean Elections, Meshkov Decree on Poll Viewed

LD1603010494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] [Announcer] At least two states, Russia and Ukraine, are closely watching how the sociopolitical situation in Crimea is developing. As is known, on 27 March, the elections of deputies to the Republic's Supreme Soviet will take place; but this will not be the only thing happening. The recently elected President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov has made his amendments to the election campaign by signing on 10 March a decree which provides for the people of Crimea to be polled simultaneously. Yevgeniy Novikov has the details from Simferopol.

[Novikov] According to the presidential decree, Crimea's citizens are to reply to three questions on 27 March: whether it is necessary to restore the 6 May 1992 Crimean Constitution which provides for the interrelations between Crimea and Ukraine to be regulated on the basis of a bilateral treaty; whether the people of Crimea are entitled to dual citizenship; and whether the Crimean president's decrees should be granted the force of law.

Taking into account the Crimeans' active support for Yuriy Meshkov's policy, there is no doubt that all three questions will be answered in the affirmative and this will enable the Crimean president to take a tougher stance at the talks with Ukraine and to receive commanding powers in Crimea analogous to President Yeltsin's powers in Russia.

However, the Central Electoral Commission took the liberty of disagreeing with the president's decree and adopted Special Resolution No 21. The Central Electoral Commission's resolution says that polling of Crimea's citizens is not envisaged by the law on elections and that the president, in appointing his representatives to the Central Electoral Commission, has grossly violated the Republic's Constitution and therefore must bring his decree in line with the legislation in force, that is to say, the decree should actually be abolished.

Legal experts are now urgently working on resolving the conflict which has arisen. On the one hand, Meshkov was indeed too late in giving notice about the poll that was being prepared. On the other hand, the Central Electoral Commission has no legitimate grounds for instructing the president what he should do.

For the time being it is also not clear whether the poll of Crimea's citizens will take place on 27 March. It is unclear what the legal consequences are of such a poll.

Meanwhile, Yuriy Meshkov has signed one more decree on the dissolution of Crimea's Council of Ministers. The decree is perfectly in line with the Crimean Constitution, but runs counter to Ukraine's Constitution. Ukraine president's aid Mykola Mykhalchenko expressed the hope that Crimea's Supreme Soviet would not agree with Yuriy Meshkov's unconstitutional actions. However, Crimea's parliament did not find anything unconstitutional in the president's actions.

Time will tell how events will develop further, but it is obvious that relations between Crimea and Ukraine are again beginning to worsen.

Polls Show Kravchuk Expected To Remain President

LD1603084294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0703 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 16 Mar Ukrinform-TASS—Recent polls show that 65 percent of Ukrainian voters in the Kiev region will take part in the parliamentary elections on 27 March and 18.5 percent will not. Thirty-four percent of voters said they were indifferent to political parties and organisations, while 27 percent were uncertain.

Among political leaders, ex-Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma is favoured by 13.5 percent of the respondents, Viacheslav Chornovil by 13 percent and Leonid Kravchuk by 11 percent.

Nonetheless, 14 percent of those polled said they see no one else but Leonid Kravchuk as the country's future president, nine percent preferred Leonid Kuchma for president and 7.5 percent would back Chornovil for president.

As for parties and movements, 15 percent have confidence in Rukh, and 2 percent in the Communists. All other parties and movements scored less than 2 percent.

Rukh Leader To Run for President

LD1503173094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Ukrainian Popular Rukh, intends to run for the presidency in the 26 June, 1994 elections, officials in the Rukh press service told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

A final decision on this will be made by the Rukh National Convention scheduled for 16 April.

The incumbent President Leonid Kravchuk said originally that he would not run for presidency because he disagreed with the timing of the elections. He said that if a new parliament was not elected within the month while

the president was engaged in an electoral campaign the country might find itself "without authorities."

Another possible candidate, former prime minister Leonid Kuchma, intends to announce his decision later.

Kravchuk won over 60 percent of the votes and Chornovil, nearly 28 percent in Ukraine's first presidential elections in December 1991. Kuchma did not run then.

Statistics on National Economic Performance in Feb

WS1503133194 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1551 GMT 14 Mar 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 11, 7-13 Mar 94]

[Text] Ukrainian National Economy's Basic Performance Over February, 1994

	Factual Output	Rate of increase/decrease (-) vs. Jan-Feb 1993 (in percent)	Average Daily Production Rate in:	
			Jan 1994	Feb 1994
Electric power generated by utility power plant and blockplants, MWe	36,596	-16.9	598	645
Oil, including gas condensate, ths t.	672	-4.8	11.3	11.5
Natural gas, b. cu. m.	2,987	-6.7	50.2	51.1
Coal, ths t.	18,172	-15.0	305	311
Mineral fertilizers, ths t.	304	-35.8	5.0	5.3
Tires, total, ths	1,242	-19.7	19.6	22.6
Including truck tires, ths	184.5	-41.4	3.1	3.2
Automobile tires, ths	885.1	-4.5	13.8	16.3
Agricultural machinery tires, ths	53.0	-61.9	0.7	1.1
Primarily petroleum processing, ths t.	2,802	-32.2	59.2	34.5
Automotive gasoline, ths t.	429	-39.4	9.9	4.4
Diesel fuel, ths t.	714	-31.1	16.1	7.7
Ready rolled metal, ths t.	2,379	-41.6	38.6	42.7
Steel piping, ths t.	168.1	-73.6	2.6	3.1
Cement, ths t.	1,384	-49.4	25.3	21.4
Flexible roofing and isolating materials, mln. sq. m.	2,095	-87.1	35.9	35.0
Paper, ths t.	17.4	-44.5	0.3	0.3
Cardboard, ths t.	30.7	-42.8	0.5	0.5
Metal-cutting machinetools, units	2,063	-57.4	50	53
Hammer forging and press machines, units	583	-53.2	15	14
Excavators, units	342	-65.4	7	10
Tractors, units	3,331	-72.6	83	83
Automobiles and trucks, units	19,185	-17.8	464	494
Fabrics, mln. sq. m.:				
Cotton fabrics	32.2	-30.4	0.7	0.9
Flax-fiber fabrics	8.1	-17.8	0.19	0.22
Woolen fabrics	5.4	-49.0	0.13	0.14
Silk fabrics	10.6	-64.7	0.28	0.25
Knitted wear, mln.	8.5	-50.5	0.18	0.24
Underwear, mln.	4.8	-47.1	0.12	0.12
Hosiery, mln. pairs	31.0	-33.7	0.7	0.8
Footwears, mln. pairs	7.1	-63.4	0.16	0.19

	Factual Output	Rate of Increase/decrease (-) vs. Jan-Feb 1993 (in percent)	Average Daily Production Rate in:	
			Jan 1994	Feb 1994
Meat, ths t.	145	-42.1	3.6	3.6
Whole-milk dairy products, ths t.	339	-27.2	5.4	6.0
Butter, ths t.	26.5	12.4	0.5	0.4
Vegetable oil, ths t.	119	-16.7	2.0	2.1
Laundry soap, ths t.	14.3	-19.2	0.36	0.35
Toilet soap, ths t.	3.6	-5.3	0.1	0.08
Refrigerators, ths	90.4	-24.6	2.1	2.5
TV set, ths	178.5	-51.8	4.4	4.5
Including color TV set, ths	85.7	-59.0	2.0	2.3
Radio receivers, ths	44.7	-66.3	1.5	0.7
Washing-machines, ths	69.7	-34.3	1.8	1.6
Motor cycles, ths	4.6	-62.7	0.1	0.13
Tape recorders, ths	46.6	-83.2	1.2	1.1
Vacuum cleaners, ths	75.5	-53.9	1.9	1.9

Crimean Plan To Join Ruble Zone 'Speculation'

AU1503153994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
11 Mar 94 p 1

[“Statement by the Ukrainian Presidential and Cabinet of Ministers Press Service”; date not given]

[Text] Some Ukrainian and foreign (predominantly Russian) mass media have recently carried abundant information on the Crimean leadership's declared orientation toward Crimea's joining the “ruble zone” and even on the accord on this matter allegedly reached between Kiev and Simferopol. In reality, however, such assertions are nothing more than political speculation.

Questions of granting the Crimea the most extensive economic powers will be discussed. Regarding the question of state financial policy, including the introduction of a particular currency regime, it is exclusively the jurisdiction of Ukraine's state organs, not of individual administrative and territorial formations. This is, in particular, stressed in Ukraine's Supreme Council decree of 24 February 1994 “On the Status of the Crimean Autonomous Republic in Accordance With Ukraine's Current Constitution and Legislation.”

Official Warns No More Concessions to Crimea Separatists

LD1503223494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2040 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Mykola Mykhalchenko, head of the Ukrainian president's Internal Policy Service, stated today in a

national radio interview that Kiev can no longer make concessions to separatists in Crimea. Their games could lead to an Abkhaz-style development of events. It is better to stop the separatists now than to establish order by military force later, he said.

Weapons Sales Data in Military Reduction Program

WS1503151894 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian
10-16 Mar 94 p 7

[Unattributed report: “Data on Ukrainian Weapons Trade in 1993”]

[Text] The number of conventional weapons that remained on Ukrainian soil after the breakup of the Soviet Union had to be reduced in three stages. Between 1991 and 1993, 25 percent of all weapons—531 tanks, 422 infantry vehicles, and 140 aircraft—had to be eliminated.

In 1993, the total export of weapons abroad stood at \$29 million, while the total export of goods—at \$5.508 billion [as published]. The specific proportion of weapons exported as part of total exports is 25 percent.

As for Ukraine, it sold tanks to Slovakia and Russia for the sum of \$575,000; aircraft, including satellites and missile-carriers, for \$5,199,000, and radio guidance equipment for \$3,651,000. In addition, military and rescue vessels were sold to Russia and Greece for a total of \$721,000. Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, missiles, and cartridges made up the greatest portion of military

exports (\$9,772,000). Ukraine sold ships as scrap-iron to Turkey, Russia, and Britain for \$579,000.

It is difficult to comment on the benefits of this trade for Ukraine, because there is no official data on the total amount of weapons traded. We learned from sources close to the president that Ukraine sold 80 tanks. We know that the latest model T-80T, which is being produced in Kharkov, costs more than \$2 million. The cost of this tank as scrap-iron is \$4,000 (one tonne of scrap-iron sells for \$100).

We would like to add that in 1992, the Commercial Center within the Ukrainian Defense Ministry traded 13 military vessels as scrap-iron. The Ukrainian state coffers received only 5 percent from the sale of this scrap-iron. The Commercial Center was later disbanded.

Naval Commander Rules Out Giving Fleet to Russia

AU1503161994 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[Text] In an interview for the foreign press, the commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces, Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, said that our state does not consider the possibility of transferring its part of the Black Sea Fleet ships to Russia to repay the debt for oil and gas deliveries. The commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces said that the protocol signed in Massandra [in the Crimea] was a protocol on intentions. It was never regarded as a way out of the situation. According to Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, that question was studied and rejected.

Belarus**Supreme Soviet Adopts New Constitution***WS1503142994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1300 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] On 15 March, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet adopted the new Belarusian Constitution with 236 "yes" votes, six "no" votes, and eight abstentions. The major innovation of the Constitution is that the presidential form of governing is outlined. It is expected that the election of the first Belarusian president will take place on 26 June 1994. The final "touch" added by the Supreme Soviet was an amendment to Article 49 of the Constitution, which guarantees broad and free access to secondary and vocational education in the Republic. The new Constitution will come into force immediately after it is published in the Belarusian press.

Hryb Discusses Monetary Union, Constitutional Reform*WS1503160194 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 12 Mar 94 p 1*

[Report by Ihar Sinyakevich: "Mechyslaw Hryb: 'We Can Hold Presidential Elections on 26 June'"]

[Text] "We can hold the presidential election on 26 June," stated the parliament speaker at a meeting with the Zhlobin metallurgical plant staff on 10 March. The main part of Mechyslaw Hryb's speech was devoted to his opinions on constitutional reform. The Supreme Soviet chairman noted that 152 articles of the Constitution have already been adopted, and now, the parliament has to adopt the Constitution as a whole, as well as legislation on implementing it. In the opinion of the speaker, draft legislation on presidential elections and amendments to the law on Supreme Soviet elections should be examined after the Constitution is adopted.

"If the Constitution is passed, we can hold presidential elections on 26 June," Mechyslaw Hryb said. He also assured that "there will be many candidates," but did not reveal any specific names.

In the speaker's opinion, other ways of reforming the authorities are inadmissible, since the Republic could end up without any leadership. Mechyslaw Hryb also stated that he opposes the idea of dismissing the current government and establishing a coalition government of people's accord. In his opinion, "the government should protect the interests of grass-roots society." Mechyslaw Hryb admitted that the Communist Party is the largest party in the Republic.

The Supreme Soviet chairman pointed out that the current economic crisis can be overcome by signing an agreement with Russia on economic union and ruble zone. According to him, this will allow for an equalization of prices for energy resources in Belarus and Russia, which will make it possible for Belarusian producers to

compete with Russia on a parity basis. Mechyslaw Hryb argued that it would be better if Russia did not lower prices for energy sources for Belarus to the internal Russian level, but on the contrary, raised prices for its consumers, since one day it will be necessary to adjust those prices to the world level anyway.

According to Mechyslaw Hryb, Belarusian industrialists are tired of the uncertainty over the unification of monetary systems. The speaker had met with directors of Minsk factories on the eve of his visit to Zhlobin, and they demanded that the final decision on the unification be made by the end of March.

Mechyslaw Hryb said that Russian experts have put forward new conditions for unifying the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems: To establish a common budget, to close the National Bank of Belarus, and to open a branch of the Central Bank of Russia in Minsk. In the speaker's opinion, these proposals "question the sovereignty of our people and our country."

The Supreme Soviet chairman suggested that if Russia refuses to establish the ruble zone, new ways will have to be found. In the opinion of Mechyslaw Hryb, the economic union could be established gradually. Abolishment of customs barriers could become the first step in this direction.

The speaker indicated that the economic situation is being complicated by the fact that profitable enterprises are actually financing loss-making factories. As Mechyslaw Hryb believes, it would be better to close those factories, and pay people until they find another job.

Responding to questions from workers', Mechyslaw Hryb said that it is possible to use the Interior Ministry Troops for patrolling streets to protect people against crime.

One of the workers asked the speaker about his opinion on the statement made by [former Supreme Soviet Chairman] Stanislaw Shushkevich in an interview with the Mir television company, in which the latter had claimed that the government is leading the Republic toward a dead end, and that the ruble zone will give us nothing. "If the ruble union is not concluded, strikes will wipe out the Kebich government," the worker said. Hryb replied that nobody had prevented Shushkevich from coming forward with proposals when the latter had been in power, but he, however, had supported the ruble zone at that time.

In general, the itinerary of Mechyslaw Hryb's working visit was the same as the same trip made last year by Stanislaw Shushkevich. After the Zhlobin metallurgical plant, the speaker visited the Klimavichy rayon center in Mahilyow Oblast. There, he inspected a cement plant, polyclinic, kindergarten, dairy, and the Muravle settlement, where he met and spoke with people resettled from Chernobyl. The Supreme Soviet chairman was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Stanislaw Bryl and the leadership of Homel and Mahilyow Oblasts.

Moldova

Agrarian Democratic Party Wins Parliament Majority

LD1403173194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 14 Mar—The Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova, headed by Petru Lucinschi, won a convincing victory in the first parliamentary elections held in the country on a multiparty basis. Lucinschi's party received 43.18 percent of the votes, Nicolae Timofti, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, told a news conference here today.

After the Agrarian Democratic Party comes the Socialist Party and the Yedinstvo Intermovement bloc supported by the Russian speaking population, which received the votes of 22 percent of the electorate.

Parties calling for unification with Romania—the Christian Democratic People's Front [7.5 percent of the votes] and the Intelligentsia and Peasants bloc, headed by Former Parliamentary Speaker Aleksandru Mosanu, that broke away from it [9.21 percent] were defeated. The remaining nine parties and 20 independent candidates were unable to cross the four percent barrier and did not get into the new parliament. Their votes will be divided up among the winners.

Thus, the Agrarian Democratic party receives 56 of the 104 seats in the new parliament and can form the new government independently.

There will be two political camps poles apart: Those who favor independence and Moldova's participation in the CIS (84 mandates) and the unionist minority (20 mandates).

It is expected that Petru Lucinschi will be the new speaker, and current Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli will be instructed to form the government. It is also likely that deputies will ratify the CIS agreements signed by Mircea Snegur, and will begin talks on settling the conflicts with Komrat and Tiraspol [breakaway Gagauz and Dniester Republics respectively].

In the opinion of observers from the UN, the CSCE, NATO, and a number of states, the elections in Moldova were well-organized and democratic.

Article Examines Aftermath of Referendum

AU1503172594 Chisinau KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 12 Mar 94 pp 11, 12

[Article by S. Fedorova: "A Number of Questions After the Poll"]

[Text] The sociological survey, on which the agrarians insisted so much, has taken place and, as expected, it has confirmed the policy being conducted by the leadership of the Republic, which aimed at strengthening its independence.

In spite of the fact that only one question was asked, given its sphere of influence, it embraced the most important problems facing the state. The first thing to be clarified was how the population viewed the status of the Republic remaining what it was before. Those favoring the idea of unification with Romania had no choice but to give a negative response. The Republic's inhabitants also had to confirm its unity and territorial integrity within the framework recognized by the United Nations. This part established in general the permissible limit beyond which there should be no more talk about the status of the two regions—the Gagauz south and the Dniester region. The answer "yes" in this connection signifies the following: The forms of autonomies or other types of formations for the eastern and southern regions can be of any kind provided the principle of the unity and territorial integrity of Moldova is observed.

One other detail: In asking citizens whether they agree that Moldova should develop ties with any states, the authors of the poll were, to all intents and purposes, preparing the ground for the ratification by parliament of the CIS agreement. As is known, a year ago, in spite of the support of the majority, this question was blocked by the small Popular Front faction. This was an awkward moment and it was soon followed by the decision of the legislative assembly to dissolve itself.

Judging from the results of the elections, two-thirds of the new corps of deputies is united. At least regarding important decisions, one can count on the unity of views of the healthy rational majority. The poll that was carried out represents that reference point from which this majority can proceed, adopting laws that will subsequently form the basis of the new constitution.

The Gagauz again demonstrated the greatest activity. This is not surprising given that the poll focused on the future status of Moldova. Moreover, the results of the elections and the discarded slogans about unity radically changed the attitude of the native inhabitants of Moldova to the possibility of the Republic moving beyond the Prut River. There was also a change in attitude toward such a concept as the unity of one Romanian nation. With the arrival in power of the Agrarian Democratic Party, the basic principles of its program have essentially been established in the republic. Moldova is an independent state, the people living there are called Moldovans, and the state language is Moldovan. In principle, this was first sounded at the official level at the general civil congress "Our Home: The Republic of Moldova."

Disassociating itself from the idea of unification with Romania, the Republic's leadership came under sharp and negative criticism from the Bucharest press and

Romania's political parties. True, according to M. Snegur, official Bucharest silently ignored the change in Moldova's political course. The Moldovan intelligentsia reacted to the criticism by lodging an official protest with the United Nations. In the letter signed by a group of scientists and cultural figures, it was pointed out: "Resolute condemnation of the insulting, even aggressive attitude of one UN member—Romania—toward another UN member—the Republic of Moldova—forms the essence of the protest." It is pointed out in the document that "the idea is alive in Moldova—and is growing every day—of the restoration of the unity of the Moldovan ethnic group and the status quo of the Moldovan principality" within its old historical borders.

Therefore, the poll as well as the results of the parliamentary elections are a platform for radical changes in Moldova. Having brought to an end discussions on possible unification with Romania, the Republic's leadership and its leading political parties will try to resolve one of the main problems—the consolidation of the state and the achievement of civic accord in society. Therefore, as the president promised, one of the first bills to appear on the agenda of the first session [of parliament] will be that regulating relations between Chisinau and Comrat. Work will begin on elaborating the status of the eastern regions. Following the implementation of these documents, it will be possible to tackle the issues of the reestablishment of a single budget and a single monetary unit.

It is difficult to forecast in what way and in what form the status promised to the Dneister region will be conferred. However, if one takes into account that the recommendations of the CSCE will form the basis of the agreement pertaining to this question, one can suppose that, at a specific stage in the negotiations, the sides will tackle the federative formula for the construction of the state. Although, today, the Republic's leadership, while offering the eastern region wide powers, including even the existence of its own legislative assembly, is trying to avoid any forms of an autonomous political formation that, in time, would lay claim to its joining Moldova as part of a federation.

The authorities in Tiraspol, while welcoming the appearance of the agrarians at the political summit, are nevertheless in no hurry to announce any possible concessions on their part. In a statement issued by the Tiraspol press service, it is pointed out that, as the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the left bank did not participate in the parliamentary elections and also distanced themselves from the nation-wide poll, this can be assessed as support on the part of the population for the idea of independent statehood in the region.

The Republic's leadership is hoping to find a common language with Tiraspol with the help of Russia, which recognizes the independence of Moldova and favors a reduction in its present borders. Moreover, the Dneister region is also counting on Russia, viewing it as a guarantor of the observance of the region's interests.

Apart from these already "chronic" problems, the new parliament, being guided by the results of the poll, will also have to examine the document on the inclusion of the Republic into the economic union.

There is one other plus: Having clearly indicated its course toward independence, the Republic can expect to receive attention from Western investors who, until now, have manifested caution that has been dictated by uncertainty regarding the preservation of Moldova's statehood and also by the unstable internal situation.

It is not only the isolated regions but also the Russian-speaking population on the right bank who link their hopes to the new parliament. Having voted for the agrarians and the socialists, they have a right to count on the resolution of the problems of the national minorities. There is, as yet, no corresponding law in the republic whereas the state language tests announced for March threaten to lead to mass dismissals of nonnative specialists. The Russian-speaking population supported the new parliament by taking part in the poll. It is now up to the deputies to take effective steps.

At a press conference held to discuss the results of the poll, the following statistics were made public: Of those who took part in the plebiscite on the given question, 95 percent gave a positive answer. The most active participation was noted in the south and in the northern regions of the Republic. This amounted to 98 percent in Oknitsa rayon. In 12 of the 43 regions, more than 90 percent of eligible voters participated in the poll, while the turnout was more than 80 percent in 15 regions. The most passive were the inhabitants of Ungheni, [name indistinct], Cahul, and Chisinau.

On 6 March, there were several attempts to blockade precincts where the poll was been conducted. In Cahul, law enforcement bodies were brought into action to restore order.

In the opinion of the republican commission, the MOLDOVA PRESS Agency did not show any interest in the event while the most objective information was disseminated by ROMPRESS. Incidentally, Romanian television used disinformation in its reports.

According to members of the commission, the results of the poll will form the basis of Moldova's new constitution.

Kazakhstan

Election Results Summed Up; Foreign Observers Satisfied

LD1503204694 *Almaty Radio Almaty World Service in English* 1930 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The first ever democratic elections for creating a new parliament in the sovereign and independent Kazakhstan concluded with a great success. According to the statistics from the Central Election Commission 95 percent of the population participated in the voting for candidates to the future parliament, the Supreme Council.

Altogether, 29 parties and social organizations took part in the election campaign. Representatives of all the major economic and cultural spheres have been elected, among them 15 economists, 17 lawyers, 17 educational workers, and others. Fourteen percent of all the elected candidates are women. Among 177 elected parliamentarians, 170 are of high education. The parliamentarians represented 12 nationalities and ethnic groups in the Republic.

Altogether, 123 representatives from 24 countries came to Kazakhstan as observers who have witnessed the historic events in the Republic. The observers are satisfied with the overall processes and results of the elections.

Kyrgyzstan

Terms Agreed for Russians in Bishkek Armed Forces

PM1503091394 *Moscow TRUD in Russian* 15 Mar 94
p 2

[Report by Ekmat Baybakpayev: "Serve Where You Want, Soldier"]

[Text] Bishkek—A draft interstate treaty on military service by Russian citizens in the Kyrgyz Armed Forces has been initialed at a meeting of representatives of the Russian and Kyrgyz Defense Ministries held in Bishkek.

The signed document will be valid until 31 December 1999. It stipulates that Russian servicemen may perform military service in the Kyrgyz Army on a contract basis, which means that they and their families will retain all the rights and privileges granted to Russian servicemen. On completion of service, the Kyrgyz Defense Ministry will obtain housing for each Russian serviceman (except in Moscow and St. Petersburg). If the Russian serviceman remains in Kyrgyzstan, however, the apartment he has been living in will be given to him free of charge.

In addition, the two countries' ministries reached agreement on the procedure for performance of military service by officers, warrant officers, servicewomen, and

those on extended service. Until the end of 1994, they have the right to transfer without hindrance to the other state's Army.

Tajikistan

Kozyrev Comments on Situation at Tajik Border

LD1503154894 *Moscow INTERFAX in English* 1404 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] There is no getting away from the fact that Russia plays a special role in the former Soviet Republics and feels responsibility toward them, said Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Tuesday during his visit to the 12th frontier station of the Pyandzh unit of border guards protecting Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan.

Addressing a group of Russian journalists accompanying him, he said that if Russia leaves Tajikistan, the republic may come to face the fate of neighboring Afghanistan. "Afghanistan was invaded by the former USSR. It's a different matter here. Relationships, ethnic and historic traditions, are quite different in Tajikistan. We must not go away from there. If this frontier is exposed, chaos will begin," the foreign minister said.

Russia, he pointed out, "has no other option than to continue strengthening the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan." "Our frontier guards do their job while some people discourse on Russian "neo-imperialism" or, on the contrary, on "total withdrawal." They seal the border with risk to their lives. Sometime they resort to arms, and rightly. When you are attacked, you must retaliate. To leave and abandon everything here would be disgraceful and irresponsible," Kozyrev stressed.

In answer to a question from Interfax's correspondent the head of Russian diplomacy said that he is "cautiously optimistic about the future of the Tajik-Afghan border." "This optimism is based primarily on the endeavors to consolidate Tajikistan's statehood and expand its social base. The border will be strengthened accordingly," Kozyrev said.

With reference to the dialog between Tajik factions, the Russian foreign minister said that "in fact it has already begun, with Russia's mediation too." "Formulas for this dialog will be readjusted yet. Maybe a general conference or forum will take place some time and gather everyone; maybe the dialog will continue on bilateral basis," he said.

According to Kozyrev, "it's essential to understand what the Tajik opposition is like, since it is extremely diverse." "The main thing is that the dialog between Tajik factions should contribute to resolving the situation; whether it is a general forum or separate consultations is of minor importance," he said.

Visits Tajik-Afghan Border Unit

LD1503150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Sitov]

[Text] Tajikistan, 15 Mar TASS— "This is the Tajik border—a border of the Commonwealth—but it will not do without our presence. We have a historic mission, whose nonfulfilment would be a betrayal. If our border guards leave the border, bloodshed will begin and innocent people will be killed," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told correspondents here today.

The minister visited a border post of the Pyandzh border unit during a break in the current Dushanbe conference of foreign ministers from Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS that Russian presence in former Soviet Republics was discussed in this very light during his meeting with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher on Monday [14 March] in Vladivostok.

"The Russian special mission is not our caprice, it is a fact one cannot avoid. We do not need any imperialism, but we will fulfill our duty. I think that our Western partners come to understand this. It will be fine if they help us, if not we will make it ourselves," stressed the official.

Asked whether inter-Tajik dialogue will be held in Moscow in due time, the minister said that the dialogue has begun, including that with the Russian mediation. "It is important to understand that the dialogue may have diverse forms. It is the result that is important, and in order to achieve it, it is necessary to find out who's who: Who has the guns and who has real control over armed people. It is they whom one should speak to first," he added.

Asked what the reason is for his frequent meetings with the military, Kozyrev said: "We have a common cause although different means. This cause is consolidation of statehood and protection of Russian interests."

Rakhmonov Sees Situation 'Relatively Stable'

PM1503130194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with acting Tajik President Rakhmonov by Igor Lenskiy, in Dushanbe, date not given: "Emomili Rakhmonov: Talks Are Possible But Not With Criminals"]

[Text] Emomili Rakhmonov is the youngest of the leaders of the countries of the former USSR. He is 41 years old. He was born in the settlement of Dangara in Kulyab Oblast. He began his working life as an electrician at a creamery. He served in the Army for three years. He graduated as an economist from the Tajik State

University. He was elected chairman of the trade union and later director at his local sovkhoz, the sovkhoz named for V.I. Lenin. During the civil war in 1992 he was one of the organizers of the Kulyab antifundamentalist resistance. He led the Kulyab Oblast Soviet Executive Committee. On 19 November 1992, he was elected chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Council.

[Lenskiy] Esteemed Emomili Sharipovich, it has been over a year now since the people of Tajikistan, under the leadership of their lawfully elected government, managed to bring the civil war to an end and embark on the path of a peaceful life. How do you assess the political situation in the Republic today and how is the constitutional process, which your speech at the December session of the Supreme Council launched, developing?

[Rakhmonov] The political situation in the Republic today is relatively stable if you compare it with what was happening a year ago, when the civil war ended. The unhealthy passions in society are dying down. There is, however, a rise in the crime rate. Some 25,000 crimes have been committed in the Republic over the year. Three out of every four remain unsolved. Furthermore, this situation is typical today not just of Tajikistan, but of all the CIS countries. Although, to be honest, the recognition of this fact offers scant comfort.

A constitutional commission is at work right now. Work on a new draft constitution is proceeding successfully. A nationwide discussion of the document is planned for June. After the adoption of the fundamental law, there will be elections to a new parliament and possibly an election for president of the republic. The question of the presidency must be resolved at the same time as the adoption of the constitution.

New political forces are coming to the fore—the People's Party and the Party of Economic and Democratic Transformations, which have applied for registration to the Republic's Justice Ministry. But at the moment the largest parties in terms of numbers and social weight are still the Communist Party and the Youth League of Tajikistan.

We have agreed to political dialogue with representatives of the antigovernment opposition. The talks are due to take place in Moscow, with the Russian and UN representatives taking part.

[Lenskiy] On what terms is Russia prepared to create a single ruble zone with Tajikistan?

[Rakhmonov] Russia has not presented us with any impossible conditions. Talks are being held on the usual topics—traditional mutual trade relations. First of all, we must restore Tajik cotton shipments to Russia to their former volume. It must be stated with regret that annual cotton production has halved now.

It is also necessary to consider increasing the proportion of Russian capital in our Republic's economy. I am talking about the flotation of enterprises originally built

using Russian technology, enterprises such as the "Vostokredmet" Association, or the Rogunskaya Hydroelectric Power Station, currently under construction. New forms for organizing production units via international flotation are perfectly acceptable in these circumstances.

[Lenskiy] The CIS Collective Peacemaking Forces [CPF] have been performing their duties in the Republic at the Tajik Government's invitation for six months now. What is your assessment of their activity?

[Rakhmonov] The role of the CPF should not be overestimated or underestimated. It would be naive to suppose that their introduction into the Republic's territory would immediately bring border violations to an end. Our enemies across the Pyandzha have regrettably not abandoned their intentions. However, they now face greater obstacles to the realization of their criminal schemes. The CPF have become a firm barrier along the Tajik-Afghan border, which is 1,300 km long.

With Russia's assistance we are taking measures to resolve the problem by political means. I have in mind the forthcoming dialogue with opposition representatives, due to take place in Moscow. I have repeatedly noted that such a dialogue is necessary. The only condition was the need to define the potential parties to the talks. I did not want to sit at the same table as people who are under investigation for committing crimes against their own people.

We want a peaceable, constructive discussion with those people who are genuinely interested in improving the situation in Tajikistan and who are ready to put their ambitions aside for the sake of the people's well-being.

[Lenskiy] Instability is the main cause of the suitcase mentality among the Slavs. What could be done, in your view, to stop the migration of the Russian-speaking population?

[Rakhmonov] Yes, the exodus of the Russian-speaking population is continuing, unfortunately. Even though we are making every effort to hold on to specialists and indeed people who are simply second- and third-generation citizens of Tajikistan. Through the press I have appealed to those who have left to return home. The conditions for this do exist. Hostilities on the republic's territory have ceased.

The government is now trying to resolve the problem of protecting the interests and guaranteeing the rights of the nonindigenous population. Under the Tajik-Russian Treaty signed in May 1993 it is planned to open a Slavic university in Tajikistan. The only problem is resources, which we lack at the moment.

[Lenskiy] What about dual citizenship?

[Rakhmonov] Well, it is too soon to talk about that at the moment....

[Lenskiy] Sooner or later Tajikistan's defense capability will become your internal affair. How is the formation of the National Army proceeding?

[Rakhmonov] We believe that a sovereign Republic must have its own Armed Forces. In this regard we are being helped by Russia and other fraternal CIS Republics. We have created a Defense Ministry here and we have subunits of special-purpose troops and internal troops.

But only the initial, preparatory stage in the creation of the People's Army of Tajikistan has been completed. An air force helicopter squadron has been formed, a training brigade is being formed, and a military school is being organized in Khudzhand along the lines of the Suvorov School. The Sangak Safarov Military College is already in operation.

[Lenskiy] It is exactly a year since the legendary Sangak died. How do you assess his personality and activity today?

[Rakhmonov] I have deep respect for the memory of the chairman of the People's Front of Tajikistan. May he rest in peace. Sangak Safarov accomplished a great deed for his people and in that sense his name now stands among those of the people's heroes of Tajikistan. I now derive strength for my work from our people among whom, I believe, there are quite a few outstanding individuals like Sangak.

[Lenskiy] Recently Tajikistan was shaken by the assassination of M. Nazarshoyev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, who hailed from the Pamirs. What effect could this have on the situation in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast?

[Rakhmonov] Quite recently, even before the tragic event, I flew to Khorog where I took part in a discussion of topical problems. The plan is to allocate to the oblast a long-term preferential credit totaling 22 billion rubles. The state budget is also financing the rebuilding of roads, bridges, and other facilities which have been wrecked. We are trying to speed up the commissioning of small-scale hydroelectric power stations in the Pamirs.

The civil war brought the construction of the Kulyab-Kalaykhum highway to a halt. It is meant for the transport of economic freight to the Pamirs. Furthermore, this road is capable of functioning all year round. Ten km of asphalt still has to be laid in the mountains.

I understand that some people do not like good relations with Gornyy Badakhshan. They would prefer confrontation with the Republic's government. This is confirmed by the provocative murder of Moyensho Nazarshoyev, deputy chairman of the government, by enemies of the Tajik people. The Prosecutor's Office has established that this was the handiwork of the Mullah Kasym gang, which is inspired to acts of terror and violence by Said Abdullo Nuri, head of the so-called "government in exile." That is how they are "preparing" for talks.

But despite the provocateurs' plans, the population of the autonomous oblast is opposed to separatism.

Prime Minister Holds News Conference

LD1503170494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tajikistan would adhere to the ways of economic reforms and was steadily searching for the ways of overcoming the crisis as soon as possible, said Abdualil Samadov, the head of the government of the Republic, at a news conference that was held for local and foreign journalists in Dushanbe, today.

The news conference was devoted to the results of the nine-day visit of Samadov to the Russian Federation, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, and the United States.

Tajikistan can not resolve the difficult issues of restoration of the national economy and ensuring the steady activity of its branches alone.

Samadov said that the main aim of his visit to these countries was to familiarize the officials of these countries with the real situation of the Republic. The international financial organizations, businessmen, and entrepreneurs do understand our difficulties and demands very well and they are ready to invest in order to implement the specific difficulties. However, they give priority to stabilization of the political situation in Tajikistan. The important thing is that foreign entrepreneurs support the program of economic reforms submitted by our Republic.

Abdualil Samadov added that important events would take place in the country in the current year. These are, first of all, the nationwide referendum on the form of the state administration, the free Parliamentary elections, and the leadership of the country, nationwide discussion and adoption of the new Constitution.

Similarly, the leadership of the Republic pays much attention to the talks with the representatives of the opposition. The aim of these talks is to stabilize the political and economic situation and to ensure the peaceful life of all inhabitants of the country and to concentrate all the sound forces.

The head of the government expressed his satisfaction that the Russian Federation and neighboring Uzbekistan are rendering great assistance to the Republic as before. Today, we must decisively state that the fruitful work of every citizen of the Republic is important to resolve our problems.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers was asked numerous questions related to the various spheres of the

life of the country, entry of the republic to the ruble zone, and the ways of settling reciprocal payments. The head of the government informed that the work is under way in this field. All the issues will be positively resolved in the coming months, and there should be no doubts about that, he stressed. It is a difficult task in Tajikistan to involve all the people able to work in useful social labor. It will be necessary to construct new plants for that. According to Abdualil Samadov the most important task of the day is to provide the agriculture of the Republic with fuel and seeds, because the provision of the population with food depends on the solution of this problem. It was decided to use all the loans that will be given to Tajikistan by the Russian Federation [words indistinct] Samadov said.

Other economic and political issues were touched upon in the course of the new conference.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Latvia

LD1603114394 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Rustam Mirzoyev, the Tajik minister of economy and forecasting received Artis Zeglitis, deputy secretary of state at the Latvian Ministry of Economy.

Issues relating to trade and economic relations between the two nations were examined during the course of the meeting. We are happy that we are resuming close contacts in the spheres of trade and economic cooperation with our friendly Latvian Republic, which were disrupted as a result of the known events, said Mirzoyev. Tajikistan always supports the further strengthening of cooperation and relations.

The Latvian guests showed an interest in the export of [words indistinct], aluminum, and other products. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

The visit by the Latvian trade and economic delegation to Tajikistan resulted in the signing of a protocol of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the two nations. In accordance with this, our Republic will supply Latvia with cotton and aluminum. In its turn, Tajikistan will receive food, technological lines, equipment, and radio technical outputs.

The protocol was signed by Artis Zeglitis, deputy state secretary at the Latvian Ministry of Economy on behalf of the Latvian Government.

On behalf of the Tajik side, the protocol was signed by Hamid Usmonov, first deputy at the Ministry of Economy and Forecasting of Tajikistan.

Armenia

Russia Urged To Denounce Treaty With Turkey

LD1603111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108
GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 16 TASS—Armenia's opposition movement "National Self-determination" staged on Wednesday a rally in the capital Yerevan to demand that Russia denounce the 1921 Moscow treaty concluded 73 years ago between Soviet Russia and Turkey.

"Democratic Russia should not be guided by the heritage of anti-popular bolshevik rule"—this idea ran all through the rally which is to be continued outside the Russian Embassy in Yerevan. The rally organizers intend to present Russian Ambassador Vladimir Stupishin with a statement to be delivered to Russian authorities. The statement calls for cancellation of what they consider to be "an anti-Armenian treaty".

According to the newspaper ANKAKHUTYUN (INDEPENDENCE) published by the National Self-determination movement, since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Russia "has been abandoning, revising and dumping to the dung-heap of history international treaties immortalizing the crimes of bolshevik diplomacy". Among these crimes the newspaper cited the 1921 Moscow treaty, which "re-adjusted" Armenia's borders and handed over part of its territory to Turkey. By denouncing this treaty, Russia would demonstrate its "new and just attitude towards the shameful past, as well as confirm its current political course in the transcaucasian region", the newspaper believes.

Official on Border Agreement With Russia

NC1503215194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan today received General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of Russian border troops.

The Armenian presidential press service reported that the Armenian vice president and the commander in chief of the border troops examined matters relating to the joint defense of state borders. They specifically discussed the enlistment of Armenian citizens in military service in the Russian border guard units stationed in Armenia, the joint defense of borders, and matters pertaining to legal procedures regulating the joint defense of the borders.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan today also received General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of Russian border troops. The prime minister stressed the importance of the signed documents on the enlistment of Armenian citizens in the Russian border troops and considered it a significant step in the development of Armenian-Russian cooperation.

Matters relating to the joint defense of Armenia's state borders, including the financial, economic, and technical aspects, were discussed during the meeting.

Vazgen Sargsyan [Armenian state minister and commander of border guards] and Andrey Nikolayev signed an agreement at noon today. You can hear the details in Gevorg Nazaryan's report:

[Begin recording] [Nazaryan] An agreement was signed today on the enlistment of Armenian citizens in the Russian border guard units stationed in Armenia and on regulations on military service. It was signed by General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of Russian border troops, and Armenian State Minister Vazgen Sargsyan.

This is how the signatories assessed the document after the signing ceremony. Let us first hear Andrey Nikolayev. [passage omitted]

Now let us hear State Minister Vazgen Sargsyan.

[Sargsyan] This is a very important agreement, especially for the soldiers who are currently serving on the borders, for the Armenian and Russian soldiers who are jointly defending Armenia's and, in effect, CIS' borders. The soldiers were waiting for it. This agreement will greatly facilitate their service and clarify what we and Russia should be doing. Therefore, it is highly important.

[Nazaryan] Let me add that Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin, Davit Shahmazaryan, the Armenian president's ambassador on special missions and acting head of the State Directorate for National Security of the Armenian Republic, and other officials were present at the signing ceremony. [end recording]

Ararktsyan on Talks With Azerbaijani Counterpart

NC1503134894 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Report on news conference by Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council, with Grigor Geuzelyan, in Yerevan on 14 March—recorded]

[Text] [Geuzelyan] The Babken Ararktsyan-Rasul Guliyev meeting continues to be the focus of attention of reporters, politicians, and public [words indistinct]. The news conference held by the chairmen of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments provided the most documentary evidence about that meeting.

Considering the importance of the event and broad audience, I have eliminated the reporters' questions during the news conference, and I thought it appropriate to quote Ararktsyan's words as completely as possible.

[Ararktsyan] A meeting took place between me and Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament, on the Idzhevsk-Kazakh road on 12 March. This was our

first meeting. During our first telephone conversation, I congratulated Mr. Guliyev on being elected chairman of the parliament. We had agreed at the time to meet at an opportune time. The opportunity arose at this time. I think that the talks were constructive in nature, and we agreed to discuss matters pertaining to the future, and basically not to brood over, or analyze, or examine past events. I could say that basically the talks centered around these matters. Naturally, we could not have delved into details and examine details. Therefore, we divided the talks in two: global matters, including the approach of the two sides to the Karabakh problem. Also, on our part we had our own specific proposals, which I will inform you about.

As regards the first problem, the sides confirmed once again that they favor a peaceful resolution of the problem, and that the establishment of a stable and guaranteed peace in the region is a priority. And only then start negotiations on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. This is in conformity with CSCE Minsk Group's initiatives which are enshrined in the schedule on urgent measures worked out in Vienna.

The next one was that Nagorno-Karabakh should fully participate in the settlement process of the problem. As you know, in this case too, the Vienna schedule notes that Nagorno-Karabakh is a party to the conflict, and that this in itself does not imply any political consequences.

Next, the sides agreed that international organizations, in particular CSCE, should take part in the peace process, and various countries—as you know Russia has its own proposals and initiatives—could come forward with their own initiatives.

That the Lachin humanitarian corridor should always be functional was also raised.

I again repeat, these were the global issues raised, we have not gone into detail, which is the work of the diplomats.

These were the main global issues on which we (?agreed).

In addition to that, our side, the Armenian side, guided by the fact that the atmosphere of mutual confidence should be restored [words indistinct], made a unilateral proposal. Specifically, that Armenia is ready to make its communication routes available for transportation of (?certain) goods from Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan. Let me say that this is not a new proposal. Our government had proposed to Turkey more than a year ago that Armenia is ready to make its communications routes available for the transportation of freight to Nakhichevan. This is a reply to the claims of certain circles that Nakhichevan is allegedly also under blockade.

The second concrete proposal, which was made for the first time, was that Armenia is unilaterally ready, without any preconditions, to make its communications

routes available to bring (?fuel) and power to Nakhichevan. We are ready to enter into technical talks even this very day or tomorrow to realize this plan.

These are in general the issues raised [words indistinct]. As regards these last two proposals, the Azerbaijani side will study them and reply [words indistinct]. I repeat that we have placed no preconditions as regards these concrete proposals, and (?they) could be implemented very quickly [words indistinct]

[Geuzelyan] The chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council was asked many questions. Let me mention only one, the most interesting one. Asked if he believes that peace could be achieved this year, Mr. Ararktsyan said:

[Ararktsyan] I do not want to engage in predictions. I am trying to do concrete work as much as possible. It is clear that this is the most important issue and we should exert all efforts to attain peace, of course, an honorable and just peace. [end recording]

Karabakh Official on Armenian-Azerbaijani Talks

NC1503192794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1128 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 15 (SNARK)—Karen Baburyan, acting as a Chairman of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet, told journalists at his press-conference in Stepanakert neither any decisions nor the concrete plans on the Karabakh conflict regulation could be realized without participation of the Karabakh side.

Thus, Mr. Baburyan considers the mass media statements on the agreement on the Karabakh troops withdrawal within the period of 20 days, as groundless ones. Mass media reported on the fact that the agreement was as if achieved as a result of the recent meeting of Babken Ararktsyan, a Chairman of the Armenian Parliament, and Rasul Guliyev, a Chairman of the Azerbaijani Milli Majlis.

According to the information the Karabakh side possesses, Mr. Chairman said, there were discussed ways of the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations. No concrete treaty was concluded.

Azerbaijan's 'Provocative Activities' Noted

NC1403182194 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Before we do so, however, we wish to comment on the meeting the chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of Armenia and Azerbaijan held on the border between Idzhevskiy and Kazakhskiy Rayons on 12 March.

The meeting was anxiously awaited. Undoubtedly, it was very important. It is premature yet to discuss the outcome of the talks. However, several mass media organs have issued conflicting reports.

The situation along NKR's front lines is tense. The situation at the front lines has not changed during the past two days. Azerbaijan's National Army [ANA] units have fired intensely on the Armenian positions in several areas with various types of arms. They have also launched wide-scale attacks in an attempt to penetrate the Armenian defenses. As usual, the ANA units failed to achieve their objective. They were counterattacked by the Armenian Armed Forces and forced to withdraw to their previous positions after losing men and military equipment.

Positional fighting took place at the NKR front line yesterday.

The situation deteriorated on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the past week. This is because several Armenian border areas were fired on from Azerbaijan. The Armenian side has not retaliated in order to avoid worsening the situation.

The Armenian Ministry of Defense press service has disclosed that tension has escalated on Noyemberyskiy Rayon's border. The ANA units fired on the defense positions around Koti with infantry combat vehicles and machine guns yesterday. However, no one was hurt. The Armenian border guards refrained from launching retaliatory operations. The Armenian Ministry of Defense has warned that Azerbaijan will be held fully responsible if tension further escalates as a result of the provocative activities. The ministry said that the situation at other parts of the border was relatively peaceful yesterday and last night.

We hope that the talks between the chairmen of the parliaments of the two republics will contribute toward the establishment of peace on the entire border.

Dissolution of Abkhaz Government Deplored

NC1503140894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1007 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (SNARK)—As a manifestation of "political idiotism" characterized Zurab Achba—the Chairman of Legislation Committee in Abkhazian Parliament, staying now in Moscow—the resolution of Georgian Supreme Council on dissolution of Abkhazian Parliament.

In his opinion, this is an attempt to torpedo the peace process. "Instead of starting a peace dialogue we are being abolished", told Achba.

Ostankino's 'Provocative Report' Criticized

NC1503174594 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2000 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The news program of Moscow's Ostankino Television aired yet another provocative report on 13 March that was probably submitted by the Azerbaijani side. This is always the case whenever the conflicting sides come close to an agreement on a cease-fire and the commencement of talks.

Before reporting on the meeting between Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of Armenian Supreme Council, and Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, at the Idzhevskiy-Kazakhskiy border on 12 March, the announcer stated that the Armenian side was forced to halt military operations because of losses it recently suffered in Karabakh.

This is an absolute lie because the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Armenia have always proposed a cease-fire and talks. The claim about Armenian defeats is also a lie. The only success by the Azerbaijani side since the start of the offensive on 18 December 1993 was that they penetrated Kelbadzharskiy Rayon. However, they suffered considerable losses and were forced out. The Azerbaijanis have always suffered defeats and have lost tens of thousands of men on the other war fronts too.

During his interview, Rasul Guliyev said that the Armenian forces must be withdrawn from all Azerbaijani lands.

This has always been Azerbaijan's aspiration. However, the opposing side has never agreed to it, and no such agreement was concluded during the aforementioned meeting. This was confirmed by Babken Ararktsyan in his statement to Mayak Radio following the report on Ostankino. In refuting that report and in an attempt to avoid similar intrigues by the Azerbaijani side, the chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council declared that henceforth Armenia will not go to such meetings unless the Karabakh side also takes part in them.

Babken Ararktsyan spoke in detail about this meeting in his news conference today. [passage omitted]

Parliament Rejects Government Program

NC1503195094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1455 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 15 (SNARK)—Today the Parliament of Armenia voted down the governmental program of social-economic development of the republic for 1994.

The opposition accused the government, headed by Grant Bagratyan, of lack of accurate economic model, principle of management system perfection and also concrete social guarantees. Simultaneously, the parliament ratified the budget of Armenia for 1994.

Draftees To Serve in Russian Border Troops*NC1503193694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1257 GMT
15 Mar 94*

[Text] Yerevan, March 15 (SNARK)—Armenian draftees will henceforth serve in Russian Frontier Troops, located in Armenia. Such agreement has been signed today in Yerevan by Russian Frontier Troops' commander Andrey Nikolayev and Armenian State Minister for Defence Vazgen Sargsyan.

General-lieutenant Nikolayev has also met with Armenian Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan.

Azerbaijan**Officials Comment on Recognition of Karabakh***NC1503195894 Baku TURAN in English 1650 GMT
15 Mar 94*

[Text] Baku (March 15) TURAN—Armenian Speaker of Parliament, Babken Ararktsyan said yesterday in Yerevan that during the course of his meeting with Rasul Guliyev on March 12 at the Azeri-Armenian border, the both sides agreed that the Upper Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] representatives must have full participation in all talks.

According to Ararktsyan, the Azerbaijani side agreed that "the Lachin humanitarian corridor between Armenia and Karabakh must exist."

After the meeting with Ararktsyan in Kazakhskiy, Rasul Guliyev said that Azerbaijan categorically will recognize the so-called Karabakh Republic. However, the head of the department dealing with ethnic conflicts and political settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, Tofik Zulfugarov, told Turan agency that "We recognize them (the Karabakh Armenians) as representatives of the Armenian community, not in the form of any state.

Party Officials Comment on Talks*NC1503192094 Baku TURAN in English 1650 GMT
15 Mar 94*

[Text] Baku (MARCH 15) TURAN—"At the present situation, the ceasefire is necessary for Azerbaijan, because Azerbaijan needs a respite", said Zardusht Alizade, the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party's Central Committee member commenting on the results of the talks between parliament leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

According to Alizade, the actual outcome of the agreements and the negotiation process will depend mostly on the Russian position.

Touching on the question about the status of Upper Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] Alizade said, "We support the idea of giving the status of autonomy to Upper

Karabakh...in fact, Armenian civilians do not live there, for the most part... [ellipses as received] Since the ethnic cleansing of Azeris from that territory, fascist-military control was established in Upper Karabakh." He also noted that the autonomy does not pose a threat to the integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan. "It does not mean that federalisation of the republic will take place; Azerbaijan will remain a united republic", he added.

The Azerbaijani National Independence Party's leader, Etibar Mamedov, said that he was not yet acquainted with the results of the talks.

"I am not yet aware the concrete conditions of the agreement. One thing is known. The Armenian party has demanded to a guarantee prior to its withdrawal. If they mean that this guarantee includes the deployment of the Russian army in the territory, we are categorically against that and we shall not give them such an opportunity", said Etibar Mamedov. In his opinion, "one country cannot solve this problem as a mediator. Moreover, Russia has its own interests in this matter."

According to Mamedov, the question of autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh could be solved on the basis of international norms, i.e. on the level of self-governance without the representation of a state. "It is impossible to have a state in the state", noted he.

Azeri, Kyrgyz Prime Ministers Sign Agreement*NC1503183294 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] An intergovernmental agreement between Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan on trade and cooperation in 1994 has been signed. The agreement has been signed by Azerbaijani Prime Minister Suret Guseynov and Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov.

Russian Oil Company President Arrives for Talks*NC1503200594 Baku TURAN in English 1650 GMT
15 Mar 94*

[Text] Baku (March 15) TURAN—Today the President of the Russian oil company "Lukoil", Vahid Alakbarov, arrived in Baku. Alakbarov will meet with the leadership of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan [SOCAR].

As is known, during the course of his visit to Baku in 1993, the Energy Minister of Russia, Yuriy Shafranik, and the president of "Lukoil" signed an agreement with SOCAR to create a joint prospects for oil exploration in Azerbaijan. The signing also resulted in "Lukoil's" joining the consortium of Western oil companies.

In December, SOCAR was scheduled to tell western companies whether or not "Lukoil" would join the consortium. However, their participation remains unclear.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses U.S. Visit, Abkhazia

NC1503205094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1222 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 15 (SNARK)—The political course pursued by Georgia is positively appraised in the United States. This statement was made today by Eduard Shevardnadze at the Georgian Parliament sitting.

Sharing his impressions of the recent visit to the United States, he noted with satisfaction that Washington supports the integrity and indivisibility of Georgia.

Speaking about the possibility of bringing UN peacekeeping forces into Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone, Shevardnadze pointed out that UN Security Council can make such a decision only in terms of mutual agreement of both sides.

The Georgian Head also said the Secretary General of the UN has already appealed to the governments of 14 countries with a request to submit military forces for the peacekeeping mission.

Shevardnadze Stresses Russia's Importance

LD1503162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] In an interview with Interfax, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Russia was playing an enormous role in the efforts to settle the Abkhazian conflict. In fact, he said, he could talk of coordinated efforts for a settlement.

However painfully, the Commonwealth had come to realize the need for constructive cooperation for reaching enduring peace in Georgia and, consequently, Transcaucasia as a whole, and peace in that region was of vital importance to Russia, Shevardnadze noted.

Ardzinba, Envoy on Parliament Disbandment

LD1503202794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Abkhazia is stopping its peace talks with Georgia. Vladislav Ardzinba, the leader of the autonomy, says that the decision is due to the fact that the Georgian Supreme Council—quite illegally, in his opinion—has declared the supreme legislative body of the former autonomous republic disbanded.

[Ardzinba] "The Law on State Power in the Republic of Georgia, to which the Georgian Supreme Council refers as the legal foundation for its decision, was adopted unilaterally after the state and legal relations between Abkhazia and Georgia were terminated. In view of this, it cannot apply to events taking place on the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia."

[Announcer] This is how Valeriy Advadze, the Georgian ambassador to Moscow, commented on Ardzinba's statement at our request.

[Advadze] "This unilateral decision—well, it is being applied to Abkhazia and the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia that was elected on the basis of a discriminatory law when 17 to 18 percent of the electorate had 28 seats in parliament, whereas 50 percent of the Georgian population had 26 seats. I do not think another such discriminative law exists anywhere in the world—this is simply impossible. Therefore, the fact that this law was made invalid, together with the Supreme Soviet elected on the basis of this law, is simply a belated measure. It should not have been adopted in the first place, or it should have been removed earlier."

[Announcer] I would like to point out, however, that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze considers the decision of the Georgian Supreme Council to disband the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet a rash measure.

Also today, Vladislav Ardzinba spoke sharply against the UN peacekeeping troops being introduced in the republic without the consent of the Abkhazian [Ardzinba] "If these troops are introduced throughout the territory of Abkhazia in the interest of the Georgian side, we will regard this as occupation, as an attempt to occupy the territory of Abkhazia, with all the ensuing consequences. I do not think there is any need to say anything else."

[Announcer] Valeriy Advadze, the Georgian ambassador to Moscow, comments again.

[Advadze] "The peacekeeping troops, if they do come, should be deployed on the entire territory of Abkhazia so as to insure that the residents who fled from there, the refugees, can return and to guarantee a normal life and safety for them when they return. It cannot be otherwise."

[Announcer] This evening the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed its concern over the developments in Abkhazia and the emergence of a real threat of armed clashes.

Advadze Denies Moscow-Washington 'Wedge' Claims

LD1503172794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Georgian ambassador in Russia, Valerian Advadze, has denied claims by some politicians and the media that the recent visit of the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to the U.S. had the purpose of driving a wedge between Moscow and Washington. At a Tuesday news conference in Moscow he stressed that the visit did not worsen relations between his country and Russia.

Commenting on the negative response of the Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba to the plans of sending a peacekeeping force to Abkhazia, Advadze said that

Russia, the U.S. and the UN "have the power to bridle aggressive separatism." According to the ambassador, Ardzinba was guided by separatism when he launched the war, even though he spoke of Abkhazia's willingness to join Russia. The diplomat added that Ardzinba "will not agree to any treaties or compromises, he will not be content with any federation or confederation, he wants only full independence."

The ambassador stressed that the United States and the UN Security Council like Russia before them have supported Georgia in matters of territorial integrity.

Ardzinba Gives News Conference on Talks

LD1503165294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Today the leaders of Abkhazia made it clear to journalists that after Shevardnadze's visit to the United States and his speech in the United Nations, and after the decision of the Georgian Parliament on the dissolution of the Parliament of Abkhazia, the continuation of the talks between delegations of both sides in Geneva and New York is not possible. Ardzinba pointed out that the Georgian version of applying in all cases to the United Nations, allegedly for peacemaking aims, is in fact expected to solve those problems which have not been decided by Georgian tanks, that is, to abolish the organs of power in Abkhazia and return the refugees.

Meanwhile, the West is interested in having NATO forces standing along the border with Russia. As for Russian troops:

[Begin voice recording by V. Ardzinba, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Abkhazia identified by caption] Whether Russian troops are needed in Georgia, that is a question which should be decided by Georgia and Russia. As for Abkhazia, we are in favour of such troops being on the territory of Abkhazia, but the question of the status of those troops and the conditions of their presence should be solved directly between the organs of power of Abkhazia and Russia. [end recording]

So. Ossetian Leader: Defining Status Priority

LD1503163894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Lyudvig Chibirov, the leader of South Ossetia (a self-proclaimed republic in Georgia—Interfax) said that among the priority political problems facing the new parliament is holding talks with Georgia to define South Ossetia's political status.

"We are ready to hold talks at an international level the way talks between Georgia and Abkhazia are held," he told Interfax on Tuesday.

As to the idea of uniting South and North Ossetia, supported by the population of South Ossetia during the referendum in 1992, this question will be discussed in Moscow not in Tskhinval, he said.

North Ossetia is part of Russia. ...

Parliament Amends Laws on Cabinet of Ministers

LD1503202194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1921 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] The Georgian parliament passed a resolution introducing amendments to the republican law on the cabinet of ministers. The amendments mainly apply to the procedure for voting on confidence in the government, either initiated by the republic's legislature or the head of state.

According to the document, the head of state or one fifth of deputies are entitled to initiate a vote of confidence in the government. The decision on the issue will be taken by a majority of the total number of deputies.

After nearly a year of discussion, the deputies passed a law on arms Tuesday. According to the law, all individuals will have the right to keep properly registered smoothbore arms at home.

As for legal entities, the Georgian Interior Ministry may give them permission to possess handguns. All individuals will be entitled to carry CS gas pistols. The law will come into force on May 15, 1994.

At a proposal by Eduard Shevardnadze, the consideration of the composition of the government was put off for a week. Shevardnadze said he would submit a final list of the members of a future government.

Estonia

Meri Affirms 1921 Agreement With Ukraine Valid

LD1603111494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev March 16 TASS—"Estonia intends to develop relations with Ukraine on the basis of their 1921 agreement, which we consider valid", Estonian President Lennart Meri told journalists at Kiev Airport upon arriving for a visit to Kiev. According to him, that document still has legal force.

The Estonian president expects his visit to mark the beginning of a closer cooperation between the two states in politics, economy and culture.

Government Agrees To Resume Talks With Russia

WS1503175694 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1630 GMT 15 Mar 94

["Immediate release" from the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tallinn dated 15 March: "Estonia Accepts April Date for Next Round of Talks With Russia; Asks European Union To Mediate Under European Stability Pact"]

[Text] The eighteenth round of Estonian-Russian negotiations will take place in Moscow April 5-6. Despite numerous difficult to explain statements made by Russian leaders regarding the breaking off of talks and the postponing of the agreed-upon date for final withdrawal, Estonia decided yesterday to accept the April date offered by Russia for the 18th round of talks.

At the last round, held March 1-2 outside Tallinn, Russia backed away from August 31, 1994, the agreed upon date for final withdrawal of the 2,600 ex-Soviet troops remaining in Estonia. In addition, Russia demanded further conditions for withdrawal and did not propose a date for the next round.

International reaction to Russia's moves was swift and strong, unanimously supporting Estonia's contention that Russian troops must leave, unconditionally, by August 31. Western reaction played an important role in Russia's current decision to continue the talks and to abide by the withdrawal date.

Estonian negotiating team leader, Ambassador Vaeno Reinart, began consultations in Brussels today. He will call upon the European Union to help mediate Estonian-Russian negotiations within the framework of the European Stability Pact.

Russia To Begin Removing Nuclear Fuel 6 Apr

WS1503211194 Tallinn BNS in English 2006 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 15, BNS—Russia promised to start removal of nuclear fuel from the two reactors in Paldiski on April 6, Environment Minister Andres Tarand announced at the government press conference today.

"We hope the three-month operation really starts when promised," Tarand said.

The government today set concrete tasks to several ministries to guarantee safety of the operation. The environment minister told BNS the Cabinet is now "organizationally ready" for the removal of fuel.

"It is most unlikely that an accident should occur in Paldiski, but we must be prepared for any eventuality," Tarand said. "For example, a fire may break out, which may involve leakage of radioactive substances, and in this case people will have to be evacuated. Estonia must guarantee the safety of the population."

The environment minister said the government laid main responsibility for safety on the Rescue Department, the Environment Ministry, the Estonian Railways, and the Economics Ministry.

"The dismantling of the two nuclear reactors in Paldiski does not directly concern Estonia, since we lack specialists for this and, besides, Russia regards the reactors as a state secret," Tarand said. "We are, however, interested in everything that concerns the removal of fuel."

Tarand claimed Estonia and Russia haven't yet agreed on what is to become of Paldiski after the fuel has been removed.

"What remains is the shells of the reactors, purification systems, and some solid and liquid nuclear waste," the environment minister said. "Russia asks for five years to eliminate them, which we think is too long. On the other hand, we cannot make too stiff demands (on Russia), since Estonia lacks a radioactive waste depository and the cost of building one would be enormous. To resolve the issue, probably pressure from third countries is needed."

Russia plans to use new, TK-18 type containers for the removal of nuclear fuel from Paldiski. This is the first time they will be used in such operations.

Tarand said he has heard rumors that the containers "were a couple of weeks ago shipped off to Estonia from Vladivostok or some other faraway place," but that they "were stuck halfway."

"The new containers are a better alternative if only because they haven't previously been used for transporting nuclear fuel and they are not radioactive," Tarand said.

Finnish Premier Arrives, Opens Talks With Laar*LD1503165494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho arrived in Estonia today on a two-day visit. This morning he held a lengthy meeting with Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar. Uku Toom asked Toivo Klaar, the head of the Foreign Ministry's policy department, to sum up what was discussed.

[Klaar] It was a good meeting. Estonian-Finnish economic relations as well as Estonian-Finnish political relations were discussed, and it was acknowledged that there are no problems. Things are on an upward curve. And generally, Estonian-Finnish relations cannot be much better. Prime Minister Aho stated that President Martti Ahtisaari will visit Estonia, hopefully before the summer.

We also discussed the issue of a gas pipeline and the Via Baltica highway. These are both issues of a great interest to the two countries. Finland is of course more interested in having the gas pipeline to Estonia passing through Finland [words indistinct].

We also discussed the European Union and any Estonian progress in free-trade talks. We discussed cooperation in this respect. Naturally, the Russian troop withdrawal issue was also discussed and Prime Minister Aho stated once again that Finland supports and will continue to support a prompt troop withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Further Details of Discussions*WS1503152194 Tallinn BNS in English 1331 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 15, BNS—Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho, who today began a visit to Estonia, met at noon with his Estonian counterpart Mart Laar.

The premiers stated at the meeting that the relations between the two countries are very good, Jaakko Laajava, head of the Finnish Foreign Ministry political department, told the press.

Aho and Laar discussed at the meeting the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia. Laajava said Aho expressed hope that Russian forces will be pulled out from the two Baltic countries as quickly as possible. The withdrawal of Russian troops is important not only from the point of view of Estonian-Russian relations, but also for the security of the Baltic Sea countries, Laajava stated.

The Finnish diplomat said the premiers touched on border guard and customs cooperation between the two countries, the construction of a gas pipeline linking the Nordic and the Baltic countries, and the Via Baltica highway project. The Baltic states' association with the European Union also came under discussion.

Toivo Klaar, head of the Estonian Foreign Ministry political department, added that the premiers touched on the problems connected with the small capacity of the bridge linking Narva with Jaanilinn (Ivangorod), which complicates the crossing of the control line between Estonia and Russia.

The Finnish premier and culture minister attend today the inauguration of the new premises of the Finnish Institute in Tallinn. Aho then departs for Tartu, where he is scheduled to meet with the municipal government and the rector of Tartu University. The Finnish premier delivers a speech at the university and tours the sights of the city.

Aho is scheduled to visit Narva tomorrow. The program of the visit includes meetings with members of the municipal government and the city council, and tours of the city and the Baltic Electric Power Station.

The Finnish premier is accompanied by Finnish Ambassador to Estonia Jaakko Kaurinkoski; his aide, Pekka Huhtaniemi; Laajava; and other high-level officials.

Aho leaves Estonia on Wednesday [16 March]. He gives a press conference at the Tallinn Airport before his departure.

'Natural Gas Network Discussed'*LD1503201894 Helsinki Radio Finland in English 1930 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] The Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho began a two-day official visit to Estonia on Tuesday. During his talks with Estonian leaders the subject of a natural gas network stretching from the Nordic countries via the Baltic states down into Europe was raised by the Estonian side. Finance for the project would, it is hoped, come from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Prime Minister Aho said that Finland was prepared to take part in such a project. We have this report:

[Correspondent] During the first day of his visit to Estonia, Prime Minister Aho delivered a speech in English at the University of Tartu. It is almost 30 years to the day since the late President Urho Kekkonen addressed an audience in the same place and spoke Estonian. In his speech Mr. Aho wanted to signal to the Estonians that the Baltic states should strengthen cooperation among themselves; relying on the Nordic countries for support was not enough on its own. Another very important message in the speech was that Finland had not made a mistake by adopting a restrained realpolitik during the process of independence in the Baltic Republics.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Aho had talks with his Estonian counterpart Mart Laar. The prime minister discussed the rapid development of trade between Finland and Estonia. Finland is currently Estonia's most important trading partner. Within the context of privatization

in Estonia, the countries are preparing an agreement on the return of property under which Estonian citizens will under certain conditions regain ownership of their former property in Finland and Finns will have the same right in Estonia.

Estonia also brought up the subject of natural gas supplies from Norway via Sweden and Finland to the Baltic states and on southwards to Poland and Germany. The topic was also discussed a few days ago in a telephone conversation between the Estonian and Polish prime ministers. Estonia wants the Nordic countries to be involved in what would be an expensive project to help it become independent of gas supplies supplied by Russia. According to the Finnish prime minister, the project would not be utopian. For the Nordic countries, it would be very important both strategically and in terms of energy policy. Mr. Aho believes that a decision on the natural gas project will emerge, but he was not willing to guess when that might happen.

The Finnish and Estonian prime ministers are also due to discuss the recent strain in relations between Estonia and Russia over the timetable for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

Government Discusses 'Temporary' Travel Documents

*WS1503205494 Tallinn ETA in English 1916 GMT
15 Mar 94*

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 15—Minister of Justice Kaido Kama told a news conference that Estonian Government discussed, at its Tuesday [15 March] meeting, the order of issuing temporary travel documents to foreigners living in Estonia.

He said that temporary travel documents are issued to persons that do not need a foreigners passport indispensably but who need to travel abroad for a shorter or a longer period. He added that Foreign Ministry was holding talks, at present, with other states on which form of the temporary travel documents would be acceptable and how visas could be stamped in them.

Kama said that the final decision on temporary travel documents will be made by the government when solution to the problems of issuing foreigners passports is found.

Government Submits Bill Outlining State Secrets

*WS1503205394 Tallinn ETA in English 1916 GMT
15 Mar 94*

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 15—Estonian Government, on Tuesday [15 March], sent law on state secrets, defining the regulations on pieces of information, declared a state

secret, to the Riigikogu [parliament], Minister of Justice Kaido Kama told a press conference.

Kama said that the bill defines also areas on which information cannot be concealed e.g. information on emergency cases, nature catastrophes, information concerning ecological and demographic situation.

Government will appoint an expert working group that will propose which information to consider a state secret. If the proposition is adopted, defence of the secrets will be carried out by the Defence Police Department.

Assembly Party Leader on Coalition Plans

*WS1503142894 Tallinn BNS in English 1033 GMT
15 Mar 94*

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 15, BNS—Assembly Party leader Tiit Vahi yesterday spoke about Pro Patria as future coalition partner of his party.

Vahi said in an interview to BNS that "with regard to the taxation system, we are of the opinion that the taxation policy of the future coalition between the Assembly Party and Pro Patria will pay more attention to the interests of enterprises than the present policy."

Vahi told BNS he attaches great importance to future cooperation between the two parties.

The Assembly Party recently proposed coalition talks to Pro Patria. The Pro Patria parliament faction plans to discuss the offer on Tuesday [15 March].

"(Prime Minister) Mart Laar's unwillingness to collaborate with the Assembly Party doesn't mean that the entire Pro Patria declines to cooperate with the Assembly Party," Vahi said in a comment on the statement Laar made on Saturday.

Laar, who is Pro Patria's chairman, told BNS on Saturday that the implementation of Assembly Party policies would send taxes skyrocketing and put a stop to radical economic reform. It is difficult for Pro Patria to find points of contact with "red directors" and former collective farm managers, he claimed.

"Pro Patria takes no interest in collaboration with the specialists of the Assembly Party administration who granted multimillion-kroon interest-free risk credits and whose thoughtless guarantees have caused the state damage to the tune of over 100 million kroons," the premier said.

The editorial in today's issue of the Hommikuleht daily regards Laar's statement as an attempt to foil the forthcoming meeting with the Assembly Party leader.

A Hommikuleht commentator voiced the opinion that Laar dreads Vahi "like lightning," since the leader of the Assembly Party has been making overtures to the Pro Patria wing that has distanced itself from Laar: "The premier has reason to fear that he may drop the reins of Pro Patria, which he holds not too securely, anyway."

Vahi claimed that the Assembly Party program largely coincides with that of Pro Patria. The party, however, strives for a more decentralized taxation policy, elimination of turnover tax levied on entrepreneurs who import goods, and changing of the taxation system concerning taxes levied on farmers, Vahi said commenting on the differences between the two parties' programs.

"I think that, if we solve these questions, the actual tax burden of enterprises will decrease," Vahi said. He maintained that the taxation policy of the future Assembly Party-Pro Patria coalition should be more enterprise-friendly.

The Assembly Party led by former Prime Minister Tiit Vahi is at present in opposition. Opinion polls indicate, however, that it holds the top position among Estonian political parties. The party also won the elections to the Tallinn City Council last autumn.

Latvia

Problems in Ratifying Accord With Russia Noted

LD1603111194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The Saeima [Latvian Parliament] Foreign Affairs Commission today listened to a report by Martins Virsis, the head of the Latvian delegation for talks with Russia on agreements initialled yesterday. He stressed that the agreement reached was a hard compromise for both sides and it would be rather difficult to achieve its ratification by the parliaments of the two countries. However, irrespective of this the Russian Army withdrawal will be completed by 31 August 1994.

Outlines Documents

LD1603113294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
0500 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The state delegation which participated in the interstate talks on the withdrawal of the Russian army from Latvia returned from Moscow yesterday evening. Our correspondent Ainars Asaks spoke to the head of the delegation, Martins Virsis, at Riga airport:

[Begin Virsis recording] We initialled four documents—one treaty and three agreements concerning army withdrawal. We did not agree on the question of payment for the use of the Skrunda facility. This problem remains unsolved at this time. As far as the contentious issue of military pensioners is concerned, then the formula for a compromise is the following: The concept [of military pensioners] comprises the people who lived in Latvia until 28 January 1992. The amount of the pension is not

in the competence of the Republic of Latvia, because Russia pays the pensions. We cannot instruct Russia about what pensions it pays. That is not at the concern of the Latvian taxpayer.

The deadline for the [Russian] army's withdrawal will be 31 August 1994. This treaty will obviously have to be put forward to the Latvian and the Russian governments. The Russian side will put it forward to its government and we—to our government. The governments will then approve them [as heard] and then they can be signed and after the signing naturally follows the ratification procedure. [end recording]

Bank President on Plans To Control Money Supply

WS1403122394 Tallinn BNS in English 1707 GMT
13 Mar 94

[From the "Baltic Business Weekly" feature]

[Text] The Latvian national bank plans to keep its eyes peeled on the money supply to avert price hike and cut inflation to 10 percent in 1994, the bank's President Einars Repse said.

In 1993, the inflation ran a comparatively low 34.9 percent, Repse told the economic development seminar at the Economics Ministry.

Only some of East European countries, like the Czech Republic (18 percent) and Slovakia (23 percent), reported lower inflation rate than Latvia last year, Repse said.

The Bank of Latvia's main short-term goals are stabilizing of prices and currency, and raising credibility in the national currency, the lat, said Repse.

Latvia managed to stop the decline in its gross domestic product in 1993, Repse noted.

The central bank is aware of the negative impact of the national currency revaluation on the export opportunities, said Repse. It preserved a stable currency market by preventing sharp increase and fluctuations in the lat rate.

The measures helped the Baltic country to lead its foreign trade balance back in the black, Repse said.

On the other hand, Repse conceded that the economy reacts inflexibly to changes in currency rates. The chances of market relations are not fully used in Latvia yet, he added.

Commenting on the influx of convertible currencies into Latvia, Repse said that the acquired reserves would allow to avoid sharp fluctuations in the lat rate and grant some safety to the national currency in the future.

Lithuania

Russian Sovereignty Over Kaliningrad Recognized

LD1503200294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys today announced officially that the country's president and government recognize Russia's sovereignty over Kaliningrad Oblast and do not intend to support certain chauvinist politicians.

Presidents Discuss Friendship Treaty With Poland

WS1503205294 Vilnius ELTA in English 1812 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 457]

[Text] Vilnius, March 15, ELTA—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas talked on the phone with Polish President Lech Walesa on Tuesday [15 March].

Both the presidents expressed satisfaction about the development of Lithuanian-Polish relations. They emphasized that after Lithuania and Poland signs the agreement, the relations between the countries will be expanded in all spheres.

Walesa accepted the invitation of Brazauskas to visit Lithuania. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Treaty

LD1603114994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that all the most important political and economic interests of Lithuania were included in the draft Lithuanian-Polish treaty.

The statement issued yesterday notes that discussions concerning the Lithuanian-Polish treaty on friendly relations and good-neighborly cooperation, which is due to be signed, often acquire the nature of unilateral accusations.

The concern by the Ministry of Foreign affairs was caused by a statement issued by a group of Kaunas City Council deputies which categorically demands that the text of the draft treaty be made public and even points out which concepts should be included into the text of the draft treaty.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the negotiations with Poland were proceeding according to the principles of international law and practice and according to the decision of 1992 adopted by the government of Lithuania, which says that information about

negotiations with foreign countries up until the signing of the agreement is a state secret of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejects any such pressure as an attempt to influence the course of negotiations and to complicate mutual relations of the two states. As is known, in a democratic country confidence in the quality of work of the diplomatic service is tested and verified during the ratification of the signed treaty in parliament.

President Accepts Forestry Minister's Resignation

LD1503150394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] A report has just come in that President Algirdas Brazauskas signed a decree yesterday accepting the resignation of Minister of Forestry Gintautas Kovalcikas at his own request.

Seimas Adopts Land Ownership Law

WS1503205194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1812 GMT 15 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 457]

[Text] Vilnius, March 15, ELTA—Seimas [parliament] passed a law on land of the Republic of Lithuania on Tuesday [15 March]. The law was adopted by the left-wing majority in Seimas.

The law on land regulates the ownership and exploitation of the land.

It is believed that this law will help to carry out the agricultural reform in Lithuania.

Troops To Serve With Danish UN Force in Croatia

PM1503164994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Lithuanian 'Blue Helmets' to Go to Croatia in Danish Armored Carrier"]

[Text] Vilnius—After a month's training in Denmark a group of Lithuanian Army servicemen will participate in the "blue helmets" peacekeeping mission in Croatia as part of the Danish UN force contingent.

This was agreed by Lithuanian National Defense Minister L. Linkevicius and Danish Defense Minister H. Haekkerup during a visit by the head of the Danish defense department to Vilnius.

Travel Documents for Stateless Persons Planned

WS1603122194 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1252
GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] It has been two weeks since Lithuania began to receive applications from individuals wishing to acquire a "Travel Document of a Stateless Person." Persons who are Lithuania's permanent residents, but who have no Lithuanian or any other citizenship, require this document when travelling abroad.

The Migration Department has reported to ELTA that only 123 people submitted applications throughout Lithuania over the first 14 days.

Church: Media 'Irresponsibly' Misleads Public

WS1503151994 Tallinn BNS in English 1331 GMT
15 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 15, BNS—The Episcopal Conference of Lithuania, the highest governing body of the Lithuanian Catholic Church, expressed regret about "how irresponsibly the press, radio and television use freedom and mislead the public."

In a statement circulated Tuesday [15 March], the conference said Lithuania is flooded with various religious cults and sects that "reject the teaching of the Christian Church, disseminate the ideas and superstitions of 'the new age,' which are extremely dangerous to those who do not have deep Christian fundamentals.

"We regret that even priests sometimes irresponsibly use public communication means and spread ideas that cannot be reconciled with the Christian doctrine." The statement mentions a case when a priest on television spoke about contacts with extraterrestrials.

The Episcopal Conference urged media sources to be more responsible and not to dig up sensations about "travels in space" and other "miracles," "which deliberately or unintentionally ruin the true faith and contradict the teaching of the Church."

Paper Publishes Blank Pages in Protest

WS1503204994 Vilnius ELTA in English 1812 GMT
15 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 457]

[Text] Vilnius, March 15, ELTA—On Tuesday the subscribers of the newspaper VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS received the issue with blank pages with the statement of its staff on them. This was the protest of the editorial staff of the newspaper against the attempts of Labour Democrats to seize the independent newspaper.

The editorial staff stated that "radical group of Labour Democrats suggested to the Government stopping the activities of our joint-stock company by seizing its property and shares and throwing us out or making their servants".

On Tuesday Labour Democrats also publicized their comments on the action and stated that "the action of the newspaper is not original. In 1991 four main Lithuanian dailies launched similar action in protest against attempts of Landsbergis and Vagnorius Government to nationalize them. The journalists' protest was not taken into consideration and the VALSTIECIU LAIKRASTIS was made dependent on supporters of Landsbergis".

The statement also said that "Labour Democrats are not going to repeat the methods used by Vagnorius and will try to establish the justice in court."